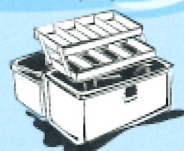


# Hook, Line and Sinker

**Fishing Project Skill:** Rigging for bobber and bottom fishing  
**Life Skill:** Problem solving  
**Success Indicator:** Ties a bobber fishing rig and a bottom fishing rig.

There are many kinds of rigs used for different reasons. Some are used with live bait like worms. Others are used with artificial baits like lures and tied flies. As you get more experienced, you will learn how to adapt your rigs to match the type of fishing you are doing and to the conditions of the waters you fish. This activity will help you catch fish with bait using your spincasting equipment.

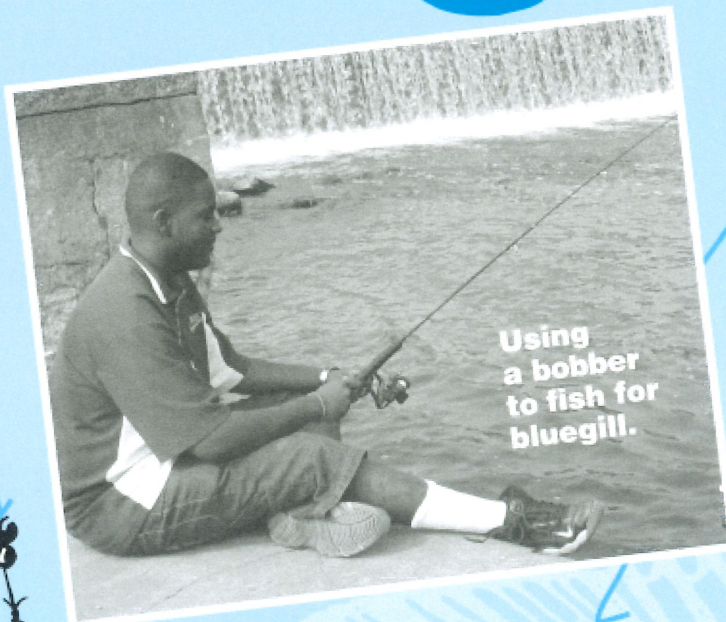
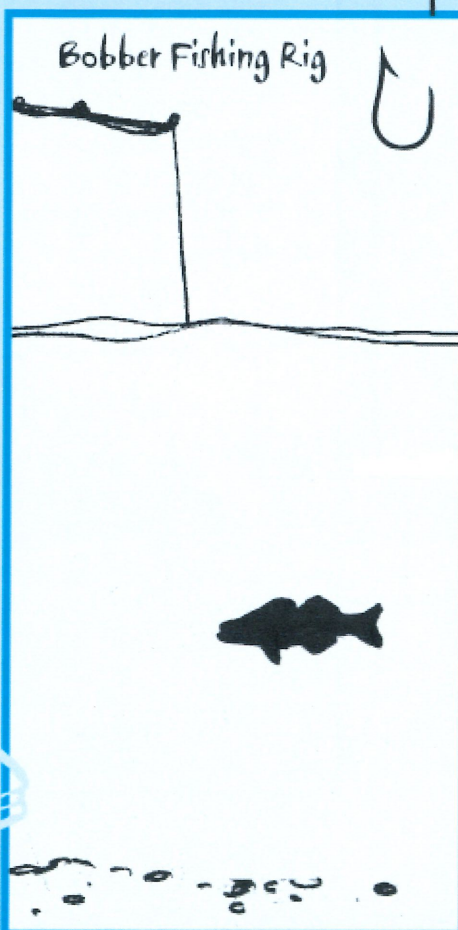


## Tackle Box

- Materials Needed
- Spincasting rod and reel
  - Bobber
  - Sinker

## Baiting the Hook

Assemble a bobber fishing rig and a bottom fishing rig. Pretend that you will be fishing in six feet of water. Draw the rig you would use from the line to the bait in the two examples.



## Sharing Fish Tales



### Casting Out

How did you rig for bottom and bobber fishing?

What did you learn by doing this activity?



### Working the Lure

What is the difference between rigging for bottom fishing and bobber fishing?



### Setting the Hook

Describe a problem that could occur when fishing with a bobber or a bottom rig. What could you do to solve or avoid this problem?



### Landing the Fish

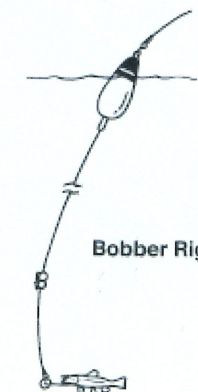
If you were fishing in a pond where the big fish were only feeding on other swimming fish, which of the rigs would you use? Why?

## Angling Tips

### Rigging

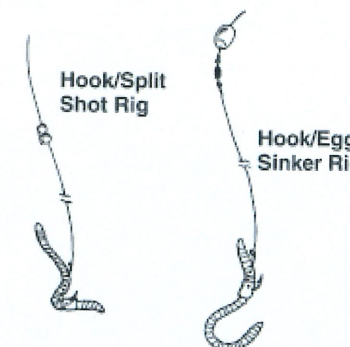
#### Rigging for Bobber Fishing

- Adjust the distance between the bobber and the hook according to the depth of the water you are fishing. Try different depths until you find where the fish are hiding. This rig is used to catch a variety of fish including bluegill, crappie, trout and bass.



#### Fishing a Bottom Rig

- After baiting the hook, cast the bait to a deep hole in a lake or pond and let the bait settle to the bottom.
- In a few seconds, when your line is slack because the bait is laying on the bottom, reel the slack out of the line. Stop reeling as soon as you feel the bait on the bottom.
- Prop your rod on a stick or rock and keep your eye on the tip of the rod.
- When the tip moves, grab your rod and "strike" back against the line by quickly jerking your rod up. This is to "set" the hook in the fish's mouth.



#### Rigging for Bottom Fishing

- Rig your line this way so you can fish on the bottom for fish like catfish and carp. There are many variations of bottom rigs.
- You'll want to experiment with this rig using a variety of weight and hook sizes until you find the one that works best in the body of water you fish.

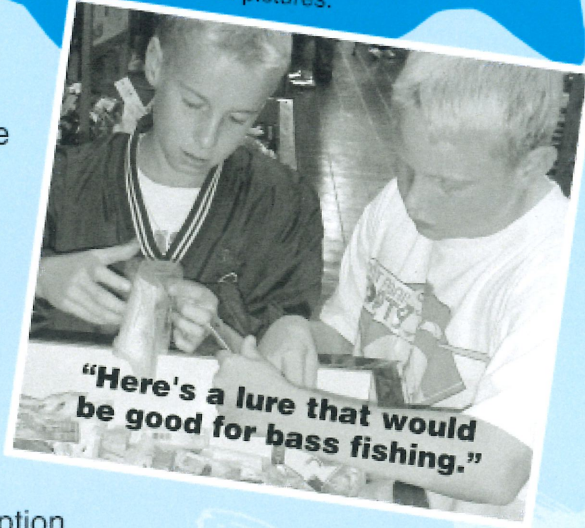
## Fishing Deeper

1. Make a poster showing one or more of the following rigs: Carolina Rig, Texas Rig or Jig Head Rig for largemouth bass or a Slip Bobber Rig for pan fish.
2. Demonstrate under actual fishing conditions how you would rig for three different kinds of fish. Explain each rig to your helper.
3. Ask your helper or parent what kinds of rigs they like to use when fishing. Make one of the rigs they describe.



# Tackling Tackle

**Fishing Project Skill:** Identifying types of fishing tackle  
**Life Skill:** Making decisions  
**Success Indicator:** Matches pieces of tackle with pictures.



It's important to have the right fishing equipment for the type of water you will be fishing and the kind of fish you want to catch. You don't need a lot of equipment to begin fishing. In fact, it's a good idea to begin with basic, simple tackle. Many times a tackle box contains fishing tackle given to you by someone else or new lures that are pretty but will not work for the fishing you will be doing. Select your equipment wisely. Try more difficult tackle after you've mastered some basic skills.

## Baiting the Hook

Match the picture of the tackle with its correct name and description.

- |    |                       |  |
|----|-----------------------|--|
| a. | 1. Fishing Line       | N. A spool on which fish line is wound.  |
| b. | 2. Rod                | O. Devices that permit one part of the tackle to rotate or spin without causing the line to twist. These allow an angler to change lures or other terminal tackle quickly and without cutting and re-tying the line to the lure. |
| c. | 3. Reel               | P. Lures designed of plastic or wood to imitate fish foods like minnows or crayfish.   |
| d. | 4. Hook               | Q. Lures that are heavier than water, usually made of lead, steel, or brass.   |
| e. | 5. Sinker             | R. Braided or monofilament strands that connect the pole or reel to the hook or lure and come in a wide variety of strengths, colors, types and sizes.   |
| f. | 6. Snap/swivel        | S. Types of lures that combine characteristics of two or more other types, like spinner flies or spinner baits.  |
| g. | 7. Bobber             | T. Sometimes called "bobbers" or "floats", they are used to suspend the bait or lure at a specific depth in the water.   |
| h. | 8. Jig                | U. Mostly underwater, wobbling lures that are shaped like the bowl of a teaspoon. They suggest forage fish and come in a wide variety of sizes, shapes, color combinations and hook types.                                       |
| i. | 9. Plug               | V. Come in a few basic types: spinning, spin cast, bait casting, and fly. Each type is built with an action, guide types and handle to complement the type of reel and line being used.  |
| j. | 10. Spoon             | W. Named for the revolving (spinning) blade that is attached to the shank of the lure.   |
| k. | 11. Spinner           | X. Lures consisting of a weighted head on a hook. The shank may be dressed with materials such as hair, marabou, artificial fibers, chenille, soft plastic lures or combinations of these items.                                 |
| l. | 12. Artificial Fly    | Y. Hold the fish to the line. Regardless of their size and style they must be sharp for best success.  |
| m. | 13. Combination Lures | Z. These suggest or imitate various fish foods. They tend to be rather light lures that require fly tackle or a special kind of bobber known as a casting bubble to be cast.   |

## Sharing Fish Tales

### Casting Out

With the equipment you now have in your tackle box, what kinds of fish could you catch?

Which is your favorite lure in the tackle box? Why?

### Working the Lure

Why is it important to have several different types of tackle?

### Setting the Hook

What kinds of fish are commonly found where you fish?

### Landing the Fish

How do you decide what kinds of tackle to use to catch a species of fish common to your area?

## Tackle Tips

### Fishing Tackle

Start with the kind of fish you will be trying to catch most of the time. Study the methods used for those fish and the tackle preferences of others who fish for them in your area. Ask other anglers about their favorite lures or baits and rigs for them. Plan your tackle purchases so you will be prepared for the most common situations, then develop your own ideas as you gain experience fishing.

#### Reels

Allows the angler to cast, retrieve and store extra line. In combination with the right type of rod, reels let you cast your bait or lure farther. They also help you retrieve lures correctly and provide assistance in playing larger fish.

#### Artificial Flies

- Artificial tied flies include wet flies, dry flies, nymphs and streamers.
- Nymph – Special wet flies that suggest aquatic stages of insects.

#### Bugs or Poppers

Deer hair, foam or cork bugs or poppers are designed to float on the surface and suggest insects, frogs or other fish foods.

#### Plugs

Wise anglers choose plugs with different depth ranges, actions, and color patterns proven for the fish and the area.

#### Sinkers

Sinkers are weights that come in many different shapes and sizes to help get your bait deeper and to cast farther. They also help you keep the line tight so you can feel the fish bite. The fishing method and the type of bottom where you fish are the two most important factors in choosing sinkers.

#### Bobbers

A bobber floats on the surface to keep your baited hook at the depth you want to fish. They also let you know when a fish bites your bait. Use the smallest, least resistant bobbers that will balance with your bait for best results.

#### Snap and swivels

Line twist weakens the line and makes it tangle more often. Swivels reduce that twist. For lures like spoons and spinners, swivel snaps are very important. Some lures work better when tied directly to the line.

## Fishing Deeper

- Make a poster or display of different types of fishing tackle.
- Organize and conduct a tackle identification activity with your fishing group or your family using real tackle.
- Go to the library or search the Internet for information on the history of lures and fishing tackle.

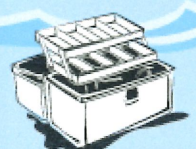




**Fishing Project Skill:** Organizing a tackle box  
**Life Skill:** Making decisions  
**Success Indicator:** Selects tackle for a tackle box.

# Having the Right Stuff

What do you need to take with you when you go fishing? There are many things you COULD take, but there are really just a few things you need depending what on the type of water you will be fishing in and the kind of fish you want to catch.



- Tackle Box**  
Materials Needed
- Tackle box
  - Tackle

## Baiting the Hook

Use the Tackle Box Inventory List to check what tackle you now have and what you would like to have in your tackle box or backpack. Share your tackle box inventory list with another angler. Discuss the contents and why you choose to carry them.



## Tackle Box Inventory Check List

Type of fish I want to catch \_\_\_\_\_ Type of water I will be fishing \_\_\_\_\_

Item	I Have	Types	I Need	Types
<b>Basic Items</b>				
Hooks				
Sinkers				
Floats				
Sunscreen				
Hat				
Bait				
Bug Spray				
Snaps and Swivels				
Stringer or Creel				
Hook Sharpener				
Multiple Purpose Needle Nose Pliers				
Fingernail Clippers				
Ruler				
Fishing Line				
Current Fishing License (if needed)				
Sun Glasses				
Fishing Regulations (if needed)				
Map				
Fish Identification Key				
Whistle				
First Aid Kit				
<b>Lures</b>				
Spinners				
Spoons				
Jigs				
Plugs				
Soft Plastics				

# Sharing Fish Tales



## Casting Out

What do you have in your tackle box?  
Which items do you think are most important?



## Working the Lure

Where did you decide to keep your tackle? Why?  
What would you add to your tackle inventory that was not on the list?



## Setting the Hook

Why are the right tools important in fishing?



## Landing the Fish

Where else in your life is it important to choose the right tools?

## Fish Facts

Salmon find their way back to the streams where they were hatched by smelling differences in the water from that source.

# Tackle Tips

## Using a Backpack for Tackle

If you are planning to fish areas that are hard to get to, you may want to consider a backpack or fishing vest. Place all of your tackle including line, hooks, bobbers, spinner, spoons, jigs, flies, etc. in separate plastic boxes, sealable plastic bags or margarine tubs.

## Fishing Deeper

1. Build your own small survival kit for fishing. This should consist of a book of matches, an emergency rain poncho, a mirror, a space blanket (available at military surplus stores for between one and three dollars), a whistle, Band-Aids®, disinfectant and water. If you are allergic to anything, carry the necessary medication. Place all these items in a large self-sealing plastic bag for waterproofing. This pack can easily slip into your tackle box.

2. Check out all the fishing items offered in a fishing supply catalog. Make a "wish list" and share it with your helper.

3. With friends switch tackle boxes without knowing who has whose tackle box. Try to determine what the person fishes for and what his/her favorite fishing techniques are.

Fish Talk Words • Creel • Snaps • Swivels