Fishing Basics Worksheet

1. Name 11 general types of NATURAL BAIT commonly used by fishermen. For each bait type, give a simple summary, including the following items. A SAMPLE chart is shown below as a format to answer the questions:

BAIT TYPE: **What** is the bait obtained?

CATCH: How is this bait **caught** for storage and use?

STORAGE: How can this bait be **stored** prior to use?

FISH: For what **species of fish** is this bait best used?

HOOK: How does the fisherman use the bait **on a hook**?

B. What general rule applies to the storage of any bait in any container?

C. To CATCH A FISH, what is the best way to learn and develop skills?

D. Answer the following questions concerning HOOKING A FISH:

1. What are signs that a fish has taken your bait?

2. What is your first move when you suspect a fish is on your line?

3. Assuming you are right-handed, describe which hand does what in relation to your rod and fish line.

4. What angle should you hold your fish rod in relation to the water surface?

5. Should a fish “strike,” what should you do with the fish rod?

E. Answer the following questions concerning PLAYING A FISH:

1. What is the fisherman’s role in playing a fish? How does he/she practically attempt to prevent the fish from doing?

2. What does the fisherman attempt to prevent the fish from doing?

3. What position should the fisherman hold his fish rod when “playing the fish”?

4. What does “give it the butt” mean?

5. How should a fisherman respond if the fish rushes toward him/her?

6. How should a fisherman respond if a fish heads for a snag?

7. How should a fisherman respond if the fish jumps?

F. Answer the following questions concerning LANDING A FISH:

1. Name the THREE general methods for landing a fish and distinguish which method is preferred for beginners.

2. How much line should the fisherman allow at the end of his/her fish rod?

3. How does the fisherman position and use the net, and then, get the fish into the net?

4. Should a fisherman chase the fish with the net? Why or why not?

G. Answer the following questions concerning UNHOOKING A FISH:

1. If one plans on releasing their catch, what TWO things should they not do?

2. When would one use his fingers verses forceps to unhook a fish?

3. How should one handle a fish that is to be returned to the water?

H. Read the section on CASTING TECHNIQUES.

Solicit another person and have a casting competition using both the “overhead” and “side cast” techniques. Focus on accuracy and distance casting.

1. Set up a target in a field.

2. Cast towards the target … pace off the distance. Deduct paces for being away from the target.

3. Take a picture of the competition.

Start

Target

Deduct paces

Basics of the Sport Worksheet

Answer Key

1. Name 11 general types of NATURAL BAIT commonly used by fisherman. For each bait type, give a simple summary, including the following items:

# BAIT TYPE: worms and night crawlers

CATCH: shovel or potato fork into the ground; night crawlers come to the surface at night, especially after rain; use dull light or red filter

STORAGE: container partially filled with sphagnum moss, leaf mulch, commercial worm bedding

FISH: most freshwater species

HOOK: through the head or the breeding ring, allowing the ends to trail freely

BAIT TYPE: **minnows**

CATCH: seine, dip net or minnow trap using stale bread broken into pieces

STORAGE: bait fish pail filled with water

FISH: large trout and salmon, largemouth and small mouth bass, northern pike, pickerel, muskellunge, rock bass, perch and crappies

HOOK: through the lips or jut behind the dorsal fin using light wire hooks

BAIT TYPE: **crayfish**

CATCH: modified minnow trap using chunks of scrap meat; trap entrance should be level with the stream bed bottom; also, can be caught by hand (at tail end)

STORAGE: bait fish pail filled with water

FISH: largemouth and small mouth bass, rock bass

HOOK: through the tail

BAIT TYPE: **salamanders**

CATCH: gathered along the edges of shallow brooks or in moist, shaded spring seeps; caught by hand around waist area

STORAGE: bait pail with 1-2” of water and layers of moss

FISH: trout, largemouth and small mouth bass, rock bass, sunfish, bluegills

HOOK: through the lips or through skin just in front of hind legs

BAIT TYPE: **frogs**

CATCH: tightly meshed net or by hand

STORAGE: bait fish pail with 2” of water

FISH: largemouth and small mouth bass, northern pike, pickerel, muskellunge

HOOK: lip hooked; harnessed in special rigs; hooked lightly through skin of hind legs

BAIT TYPE: **insects and insect larvae** (grasshoppers, cricket, nymphs, etc)

CATCH: overturning stones (illegal to take in some states without license)

STORAGE: bait fish pails

FISH: bluegills, sunfish, rock bas, perch, crappies, trout, largemouth and small mouth bass

HOOK: light wire hooks

BAIT TYPE: **fish eggs** (trout, salmon)

CATCH: fish full of roe (eggs)

STORAGE: most any container; made into small sacks

FISH: suckers, carp, bullhead, trout, salmon

HOOK: hooked into sacks

BAIT TYPE: **cut baits** … chunks of fish, scrap meat, liver

CATCH:

STORAGE: cut into 1-2 cm (1/2”) pieces; any container

FISH: suckers, carp, bullheads

BAIT TYPE: **dough balls** from any bread recipe

1. What general rule applies to the storage of any bait in any container?

***Keep them COOL. Replace water frequently to maintain cool environment and replenish oxygen*.**

C. To CATCH A FISH, what is the best way to learn and develop skills?

***Actual experience***

D. Answer the following questions concerning HOOKING A FISH:

1) What are signs that a fish has taken your bait?

***Short, jerky actions or a heavy steady tug***

2) What is your first move when you suspect a fish is on your line?

***Retrieve your slack line and draw it up***

3) Assuming you are right-handed, describe which hand does what in relation to your rod and fish line.

***Hold rod in left hand; hold line in right hand***

4) What angle should you hold your fish rod in relation to the water surface?

***45 degrees to the water surface***

5) Should a fish “strike,” what should you do with the fish rod?

## **Jerk the rod upward and back swiftly**

E. Answer the following questions concerning PLAYING A FISH:

1) What is the fisherman’s role in playing a fish? How does he/she practically attempt to prevent the fish from doing?

***prevent or counteract the fish’s maneuvers’ fisherman must keep tension on the line until the fish tires***

2) What does the fisherman attempt to prevent the fish from doing?

***throwing the hook or getting tangled among logs, roots, rocks or breaking the line***

3) What position should the fisherman hold his fish rod when “playing the fish”?

***hold it in a nearly vertical position, keep the fish’s head up and make it fight the rod action***

4) What does “give it the butt” mean?

***lower the rod to allow the strain of the fish’s resistance to be taken at the heavier section of the rod***

5) How should a fisherman respond if the fish rushes toward him/her?

***wind up the line quickly to maintain tension***

6) How should a fisherman respond if a fish heads for a snag?

***place pressure on the line to force the fish towards the open water***

7) How should a fisherman respond if the fish jumps?

## **Pull back the rod to keep the line taut**

F. Answer the following questions concerning LANDING A FISH:

1) Name the THREE general methods for landing a fish and distinguish which method is preferred for beginners.

***beaching, grasping or netting; netting is preferred***

2) How much line should the fisherman allow at the end of his/her fish rod?

***about ten (10) feet***

3) How does the fisherman position and use the net, and then, get the fish into the net?

***lead the fish toward the net with the rod; net the fish head first***

4) Should a fisherman chase the fish with the net? Why or why not?

***No, because this could scare the fish and increase the difficulty in netting***

G. Answer the following questions concerning UNHOOKING A FISH:

1) If one plans on releasing their catch, what TWO things should they not do?

***avoid handling or injuring the gills; avoid squeezing the fish***

2) When would one use his fingers verses forceps to unhook a fish?

***if the hook is deep into the mouth use forceps, push the hook rearward to avoid tearing and damage***

3) How should one handle a fish that is to be returned to the water?

* ***don’t just heave it into the water, find a slow-moving pool of water or release near shore***
* ***put the stringer through the lip (lower jaw), NOT the gills***

H. Results of the CASTING competition. Insert Image below.