

Lure Making

Background: Review Chapters 2: *Fishing Equipment*, 4: *Fishing Techniques* and 5: *Fish Identification and Life History* in Going Fishing

Standards:

Duration: 30-45 minutes

Materials: *Common Fish of Nebraska* book, Lure Making Kit (available from the Youth Fishing Program. Contains: paper clips, treble hooks, swivels, colored duct tape, feathers or fur, waterproof glue, pliers), scissors, masking tape, empty soda cans (optional)

Objectives: Participants will create a fishing lure and learn how a lure function to attract prey.

Warm up: Begin a discussion by asking the class to define the purpose of a lure. How can the shape and color of a lure help determine what kind of fish is caught? What are some common household items that could be used to make lures that will be attractive to fish?

Activity:

Students will work in pairs. Distribute lure making components to each student (pop cans can be shared by a pair).

- Cover the points of the hook with masking tape for safety
- Thread the swivel onto the top of the paper clip
- Thread the treble hook onto other side of the paper clip
- Wrap the paper clip in colored duct tape OR a square of tin cut from a pop can

Pop Can Directions:

- Punch scissors into the aluminum can and cut out a square, being careful to avoid sharp edges while cutting
- Measure the length of your paperclip and cut a piece of aluminum slightly shorter than the clip and 3X the width.
- Place the paperclip near the edge of the aluminum piece,

and using your fingers, pinch one fold in the aluminum.

- Open the fold and remove the paper clip.
- Line the foil with waterproof glue and place ½ of your feather/hair material on the foil extending out on the side where the hook will be.
- Replace the paperclip and place the rest of the feather/hair material on top of the paperclip
- Using your fingers, fold the aluminum back over the clip, and continue to wrap the piece tightly around the clip.
- Cut off excess foil once the clip is completely wrapped.
- Use pliers to crimp the foil down over the paperclip, along the entire length of the clip
- Students can choose to use the colored side of the pop can or the silver side, dependent on the water conditions in which they intend to use their lures.

Duct tape directions:

- Measure the length of your paperclip and cut a piece of tape slightly shorter than the clip and about 3X the width

- Place the paperclip flush with one edge of the tape
- Place your feathers or fur on the paperclip, extending off the end to cover the hook
- Carefully wrap the tape around the clip and the dressing.

Encourage students to be creative with the shape of the lure (for instance, they can bend it slightly with the pliers to put a curve in the body, which will influence the way it moves through the water)

Wrap up:

- Have students discuss what species and sizes of fish they would expect to catch using their lures. Discuss how the water body you choose to fish at might influence the color you use on your lure. (example: if fishing in murky water, you may use a really bright color to make the lure stand out)

OPTION: Create a bulletin board fishing display using the lures and fish prints from the Gytaku activity.

