



# Newsletter

## Junior Angler of the Month — Meet Amber Wallace

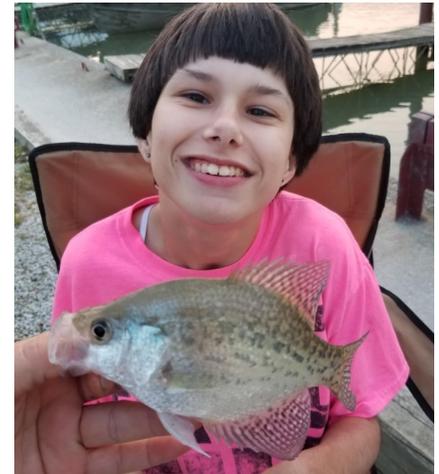
Whether she’s on the water, playing on her iPad or just hanging out with family, Amber’s smile lights up the space wherever she is. This beautiful soon-to-be 20-year-old loves pan fish and was introduced to fishing six years ago by her mom, Tricia, who, at the same time, got back into the sport after a long absence. Amber’s favourite fish is the pumpkinseed, with its brilliant colours and feisty personality, is rightly matched for her as her mom describes Amber as a person with “a small frame but big attitude”!

The biggest fish that Amber has caught is a 28” sheepshead but she didn’t want her picture taken with it. In fact, as much as she loves fishing, she is not keen on touching fish. Perhaps 2021 is the year that she meets that challenge!

As well as fishing, Amber enjoys other outdoor activities such as playing Miracle League Baseball <https://amherstburgmiracle.com> where Tricia also volunteers as team coach. Bowling, horseback riding, camping, paddleboat fishing, camping and going for walks are other pastimes that Amber has taken part in.

She participates in the annual ICHA (Italian Canadian HandiCapable Association) Fishing Derby, founded and directed by Pat Pagano. ICHA is an organization that works closely with both physically and mentally challenged children and adults in the community.

<https://www.facebook.com/IchaFishingDerby/>

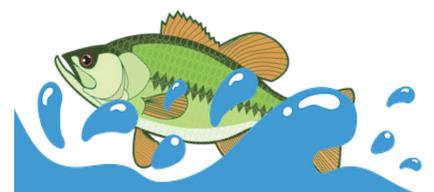


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### Newsletter Contributors

- Amanda Tracey
- Yvonne Brown
- Patricia Merka
- Catherine Bodden



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Earlier this year, Amber’s family got a new van to assist with increased accessibility and travel. Living in Kingsville, Lake Erie is a frequent fishing spot for Amber and her family as well as the numerous creeks in her area. “Most shore fishing locations are not accessible for those with mobility challenges”, says Tricia. “And many places are not safe for wheelchairs”. The family now has a 12’ boat which provides more opportunities to get out on the water.

Amber first started out using a spincast rod but then, through the generosity of Ron Colaresi at Toothy Critters Custom Rods in Connecticut, she now fishes with a custom-made rod paired up with a Shimano Nascii. <https://www.facebook.com/Toothy-Critters-Custom-Rods-101650378016126>

As Cerebral Palsy presents some challenges for Amber, Tricia casts out for her daughter and assists with reeling, then Amber is responsible for watching the bobber and bringing in the fish. She likes to use worms and minnows and isn’t opposed to playing with them in the bucket. As the ice is often not safe in the area where the Wallace family lives, ice fishing is not something they have tried with Amber for safety reasons.

Amber enjoys fishing with mom, dad and friends. Her cousin Josh joins them occasionally as well as her neighbourhood friend, Ella, who shares in Amber’s dislike of touching fish. “Short trips of a few hours are best for Amber”, says her mom, “We often head out to one of the local creeks after dinner”.

“She enjoys fishing with everyone and meeting new people,” says Tricia. “We often fish with Sarah Jinkerson and her children too”. While Tricia and Sarah fished as a team in the Canadian Fishing Network (CFN) Fish Off, Amber was paired with Sarah’s mom, Shirley. “I have to admit, Amber out-fishes me all the time!” say mom.

Last year’s trip to Horwood Lake Lodge <https://www.horwoodlakelodge.com/> was an exceptional experience for Amber and her family. She was able to fish from a pontoon boat and laughs when she recalls the time that her friend Mark nearly fell into the water while trying to net a fish for her.

This author would also love the opportunity to fish with Amber, either this year or next. We at Ontario Women Anglers would like to wish Amber a great summer and we look forward to hearing more about her fishing adventures in the coming months.



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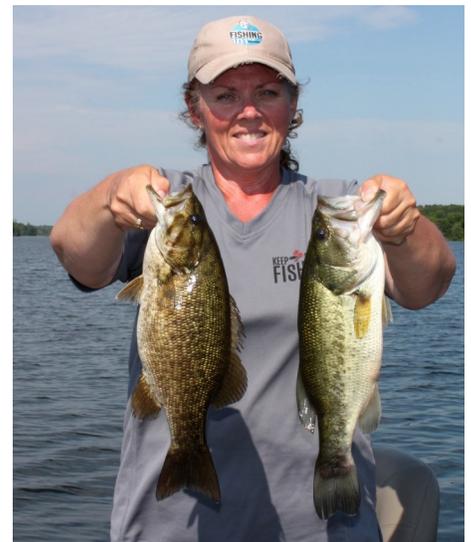
## Fish of the Month — Black Bass

From Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia [https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black\\_bass](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_bass)

A black bass is a type of fresh water fish. The black basses are found throughout a large area east of the Rocky Mountains in North America, from the Hudson Bay basin in Canada to northeastern Mexico. Several species, notably the Largemouth and Smallmouth, have been very widely introduced throughout the world. Black bass of all species are highly sought-after game fish, and bass fishing is an extremely popular sport. These fish are well known as strong fighters, and taste good.

### Description (by species)

- The **Largemouth bass** is a fish which generally has greenish to brownish sides with a dark line which goes from the head to the tail. It's the largest member of the sunfish family. The upper jaw of a largemouth bass extends back beyond the eye.
- The **Smallmouth bass** (also called the bronzeback, brownie, and smallie) is generally brown with red eyes. It has dark brown vertical bands, rather than a horizontal band along the side. There are 13–15 soft rays in the dorsal fin. The upper jaw of smallmouth bass extends to the middle of the eye.
- The **Spotted bass** (or Kentucky bass) resembles the largemouth bass in coloring, but has a smaller mouth. The upper jaw of spotted bass extends to the front of the eye.



*(Continued on page 4)*

### Largemouth Bass



1. Upper jaw extends past the eye
2. Deep notch separating dorsal fins
3. Greenish body with horizontal lines

### Smallmouth Bass



1. Upper jaw level with the eye
2. No break between dorsal fins
3. Brownish body with vertical lines

<https://fishingbooker.com/blog/smallmouth-vs-largemouth-bass/>

### Feeding Habits

The feeding habits of bass change with its size. Young fish mainly feed on microscopic animals (plankton). Fingerling bass eat insects and small fishes. Adult bass will eat whatever is available, including fish, crabs, frogs, salamanders, snakes, mice, turtles, and even birds.

### Habitat

Black bass are found in running and still waters, with or without aquatic vegetation (plants that live in water). they need food and some form of cover. Generally, they can tolerate a wide range of water clarities and bottom types. Most prefer water temperatures from 20 to 30°C, and are often found at depths less than 20 feet. Smallmouth prefer clear water and usually like deeper water than Largemouth.

### What Do Bass Eat?



Insects



Amphibians



Small Animals



Zooplankton



Small Fish



Crawfish

<https://feedingnature.com/what-do-bass-eat/>

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Age and growth - Growth rates are highly variable with differences attributed mainly to their food supply and length of growing season. Female bass live longer than males and are much more likely to reach trophy size. By age two or three, females grow much faster than male bass. At five years of age females may be twice the weight of males. The oldest bass from Florida whose age has been determined by fisheries' biologists was 16 years of age.

### Sporting Qualities

The largemouth bass is a very popular fresh water game fish. Much of its popularity is due to its aggressive attitude and willingness to strike a bait with explosive force. They can be caught with almost every bait. The value of the largemouth as a sport fish has prompted a movement toward catch and release fishing.



<https://tulsaworld.com/>

### References:

1. Steve Price, America's Best Bass Fishing: The Fifty Best Places to Catch Bass (Helena, MT: Falcon, 2000), p. 1
2. "Kevin VanDam". Bassmaster. 2014. Retrieved 12 May 2014.

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## Fish Trivia

**True or False? Catfish have tastebuds all over their body?**

A: True! They are like a giant swimming tongue!

**How much did the biggest fish ever caught in Ontario weigh?**

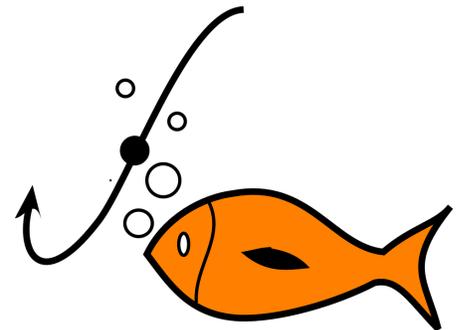
A: A 168 lb Lake Sturgeon was caught near Wasaga Beach Provincial Park.

**When was the first fish hook invented?**

A: It dates back over 42,000 years ago, to a cave in East Timor, Asia.

**True or False? Largemouth bass can eat prey that is up to 35% of their own body length.**

A: True! For comparison, if you are 5 feet tall, that would mean you could snack on items up to 1.75 feet in length! That would be a BIG cookie!



# The Blood Knot

The following information and diagram is taken from [www.netknots.com](http://www.netknots.com), an excellent resource for learning the knots most commonly used in fishing. As well, there are two other websites that are excellent resources included at the bottom of this article.

The Blood Knot is a simple and easy-to-learn knot that is used for joining two lines together. It is also sometimes referred to as the Double Blood Knot or Barrel Knot. It is a knot that works best with two lines of approximately equal diameter but can be used with lines of varying diameter. The strength of the knot is increased by making at least 5 to 7 wraps on each side of the knot. It is also used commonly by people who fly fish. A series of knots can be tied in ever decreasing pound strength of leader material, joining segments of 24 inches (60 cm) or so to create a tapered leader or “tippet” for fly fishing. It can also join a lead-core line to a leader. Basically, it can be used to construct fishing leaders, for connecting a leader to a tippet or for line to leader connections.

The advantages of this knot include its strength. It is compact, can work with lines of varying diameters, and it is a smooth knot. It can connect braid to braid, braid to mono, mono to mono or braid to fluorocarbon line.

The instructions for tying this knot are as follows and are more easily understood once you see the diagram or watch the video:

- Overlap the ends of the two lines to be joined. Twist one around the other making 5 turns. Bring the tag end back between the two lines.
- Repeat with the other end, wrapping in opposite direction the same number of turns.
- Moisten the line, and then slowly pull the lines in opposite directions. The turns will wrap and gather. Clip the ends close to the knot. Important, if not trimmed closely, the short ends can catch on to the rod guides.

To see more information on this knot, and an animated video, you can go to the following web page:

[https://www.netknots.com/fishing\\_knots/blood-knot](https://www.netknots.com/fishing_knots/blood-knot)

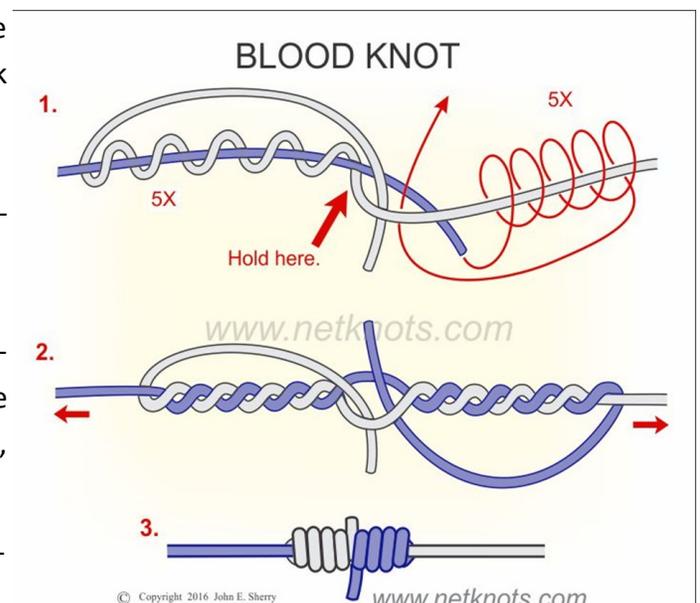
Other helpful websites for knots include the following:

<https://www.animatedknots.com/blood-knot>

<https://www.101knots.com/blood-knot.html>

Remember to be patient when trying to tie this knot, it takes time to learn, and it helps to practice! You can keep a photocopy of this knot in your tackle box for easy reference.

Good luck with this knot and get out there and fish!



# Fishing Tips

Have a new rod? Check out this video from Greg the Gardener to find out how to set up a new rod!

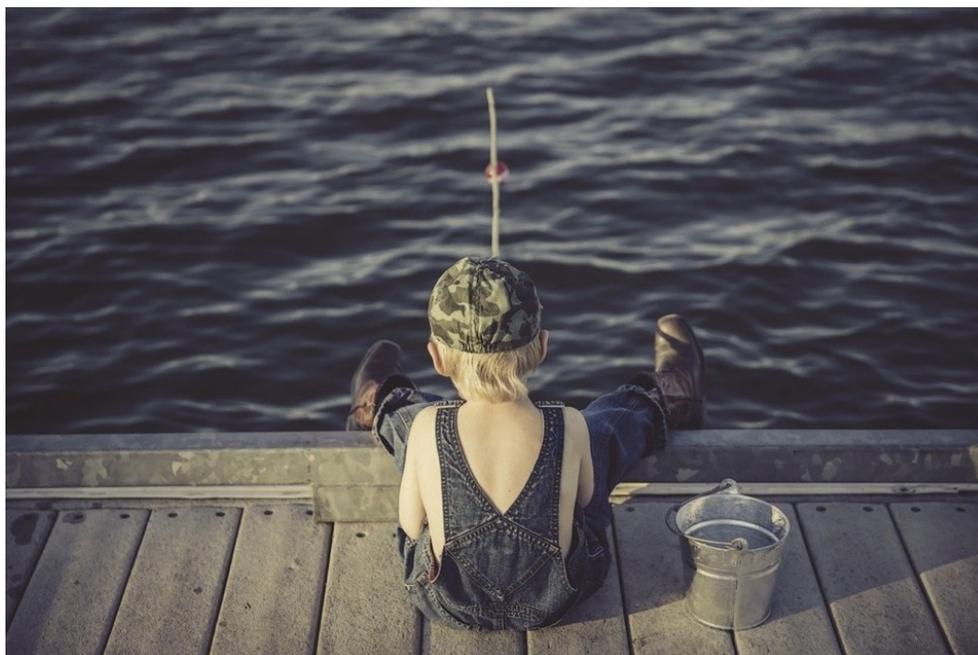
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=c1pWPeoQVIs&list=PLrPyEwZfpSqZG0zLB1J7Ujp78eGTjIY-D&index=1>

Keeping your gear clean will help it last longer. Check out Hermens Outdoors video about how to clean a spinning reel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=HoBUQWbHA3E&list=PLrPyEwZfpSqZG0zLB1J7Ujp78eGTjIY-D&index=2&t=7s>



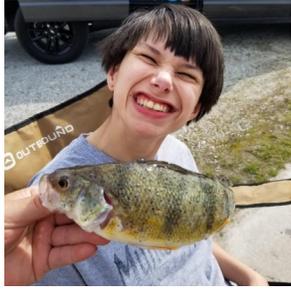
New to fishing? This video shows you exactly how to cast with ease! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vEGGeDAUos&t=5s>



# National Fishing Week— Kids' Rod Giveaway



**Congratulations Maisie B.**  
You are the winner of the Shimano Sienna rod/reel combo in the girls' group.

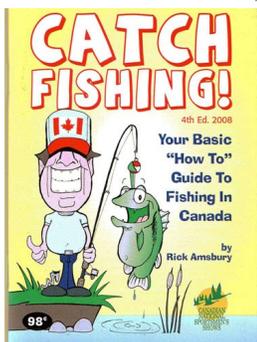
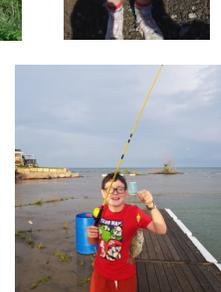
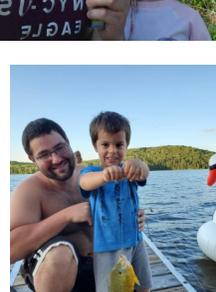
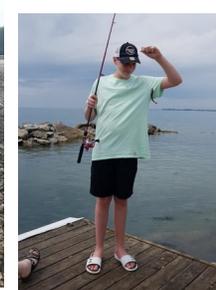
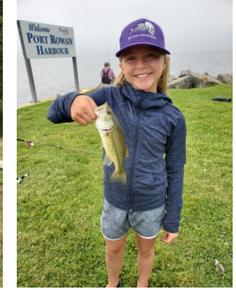


**KEEP  CANADA FISHING**

# National Fishing Week— Kids' Rod Giveaway



**Congratulations  
Seth L.**  
You are the winner  
of the Shimano Sien-  
na rod/reel combo in  
the boys' group.



Canada's  National Fishing Week  
July 3 to 11, 2021

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions: Colour this drawing any way you like, then complete the form along the side and either email it to [offe@ofah.org](mailto:offe@ofah.org) or mail it to:

Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters • P.O. Box 2800 • Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8L5

DEADLINE FOR COLOURING SUBMISSIONS: July 31, 2021

Draw will take place August 2021 • Draw is open to children only • This is a draw, not a competition.  
Enter this draw and you could be eligible to win: a rod and reel, lure kits, one-year magazine subscription & other fishing products from:

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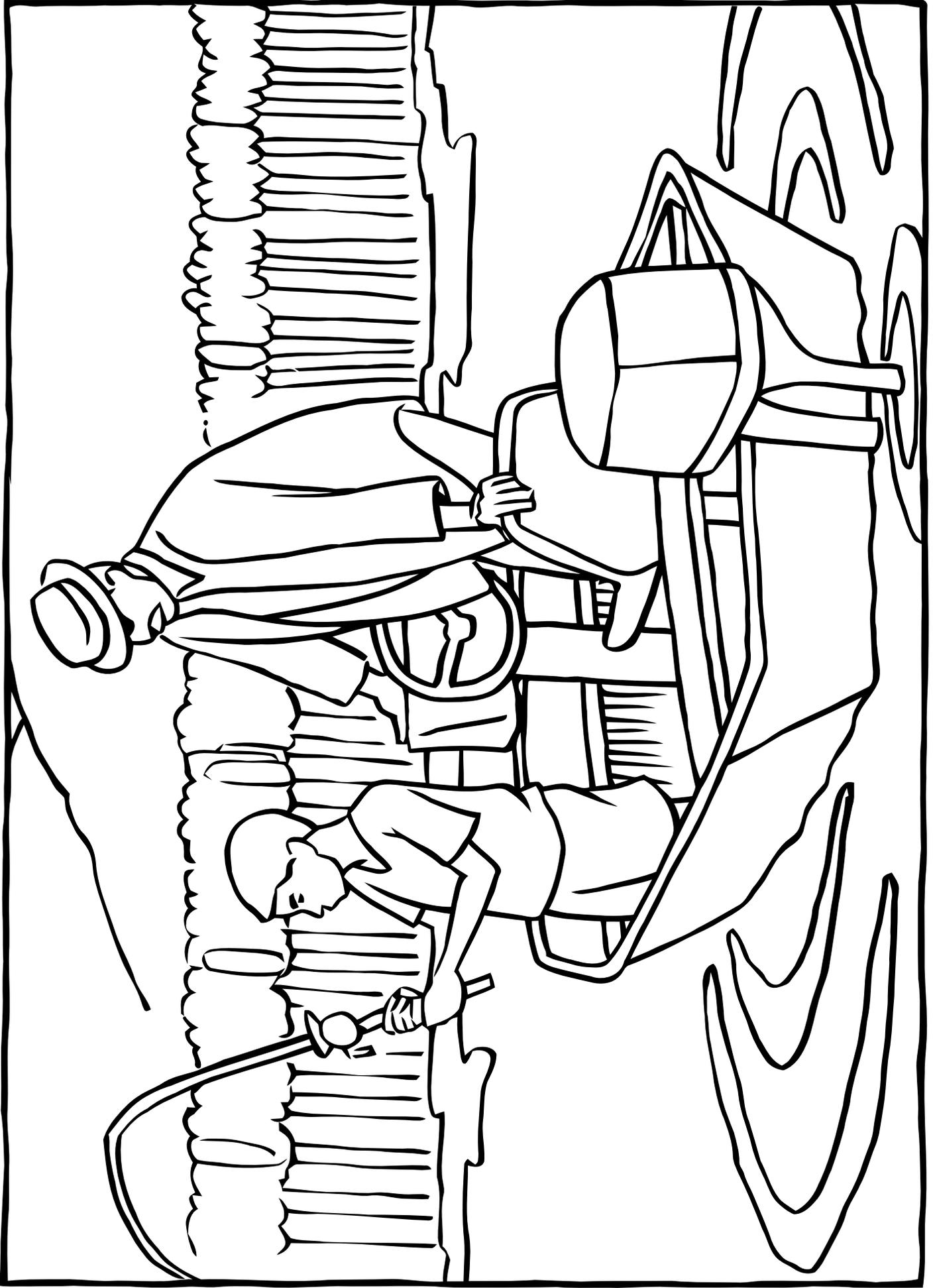
Fishing

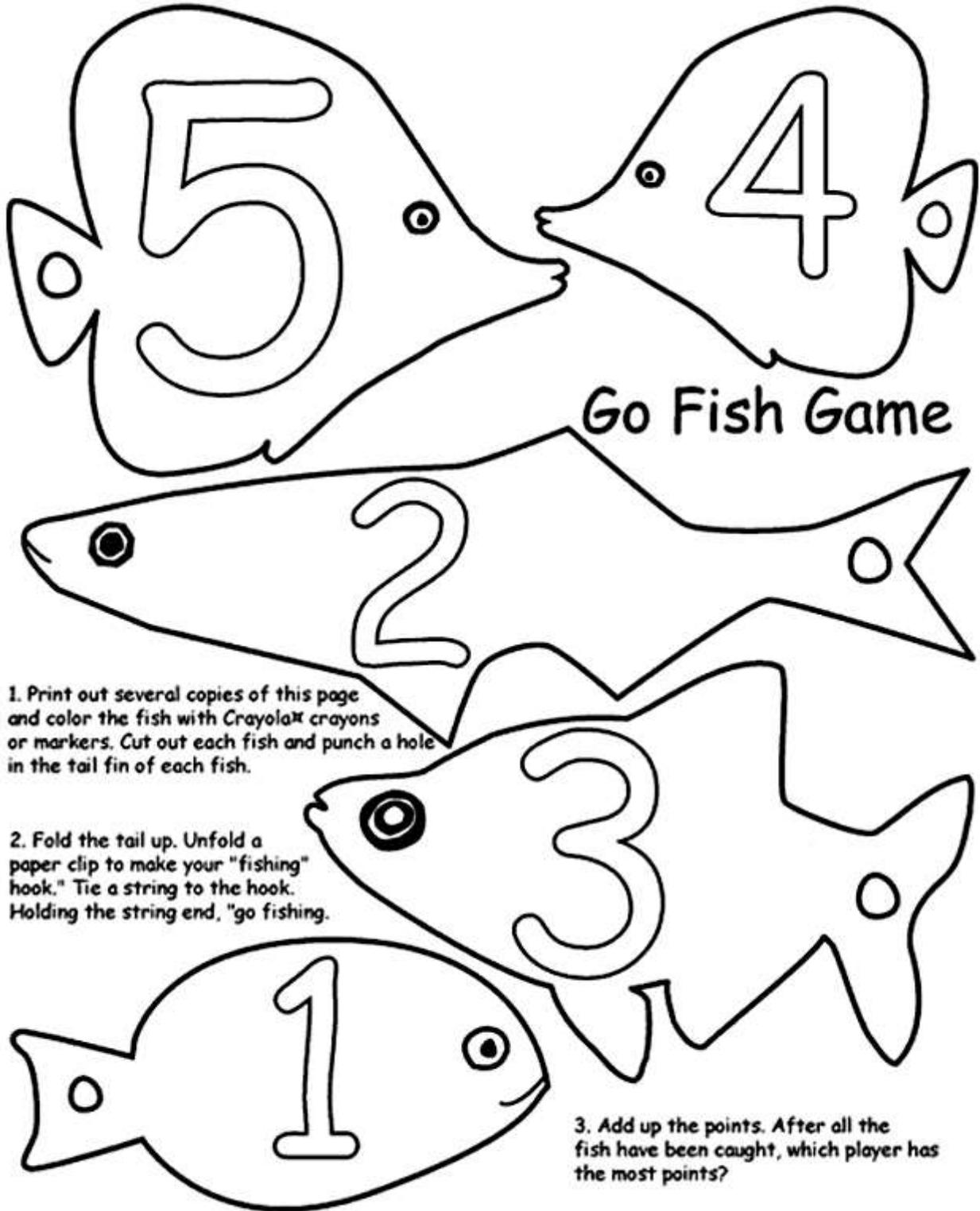


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# Baggy Fish



**Create your own puffy fish-with paper lunch bags! Paint and stuff a whole school of these delightful creatures.**

## Supplies:

- Crayola Washable Paint
- Crayola Construction Paper
- Newspaper
- Crayola Paint Brush
- Upcycled Paper Bags
- String

## Steps:

**1** What lives in the ocean, a pond, or river? Fish! Lots of them! Use your imagination to create these Baggy Fish to swim in pretend water.

**3** On construction paper, paint a watery home for your fish. You might paint waves, seaweed, or other fish. Lay your fish and water scene flat to air dry.

**2** Cover your art area with recycled newspaper. Paint a paper lunch bag with Crayola® Washable Kid's Paint. You may use a sponge or a Crayola So Big Brush. Add an eye so your fish can see. While the paint is still wet, lay a piece of yarn on your fish to make a mouth. The yarn will stick to the paint when it's dry.

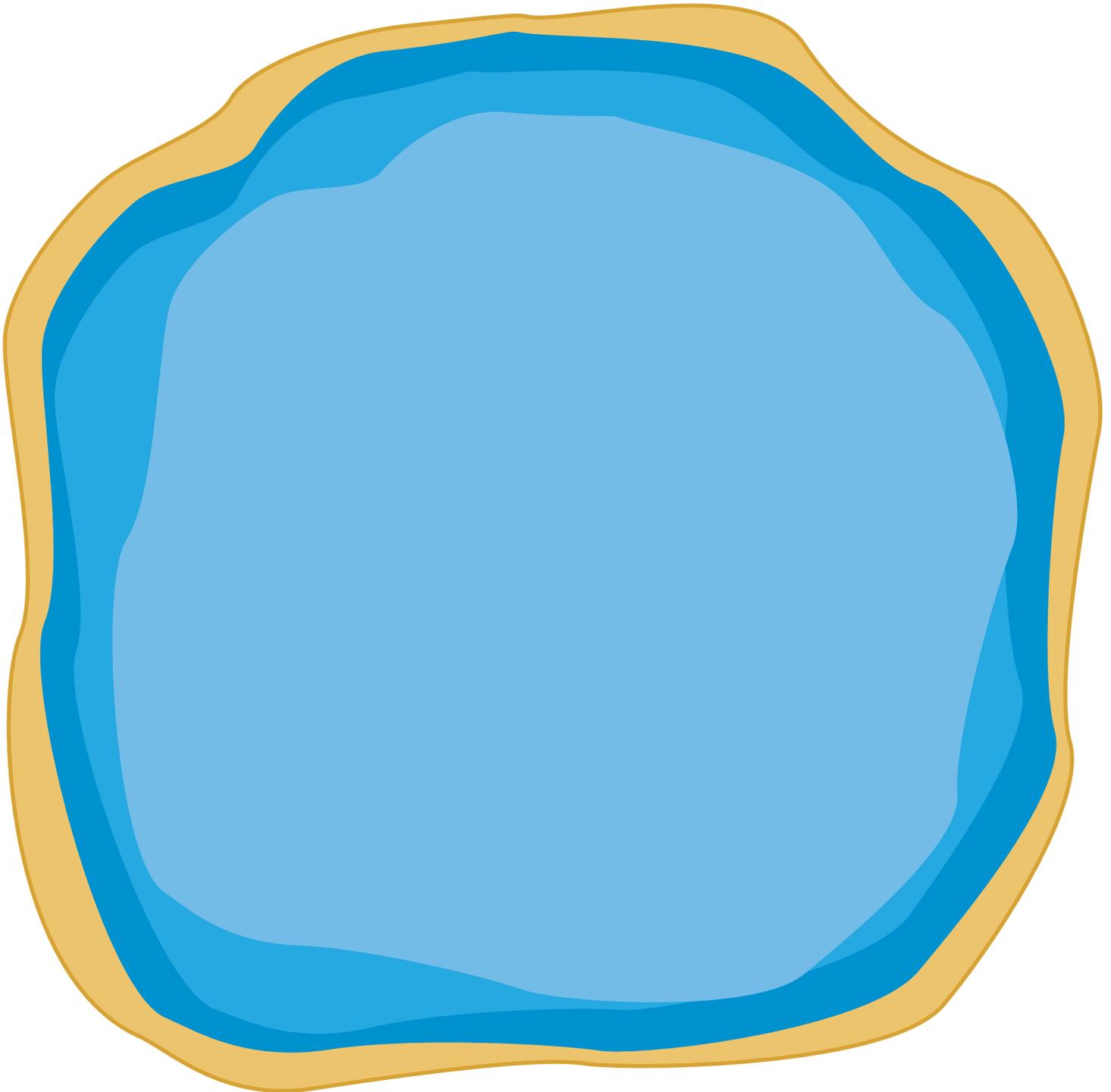
**4** Crumple newspaper. Stuff your fish with it.

**5** Ask an adult to help you tie the open end with yarn. Fluff out the tail. Lay your fish on its watery home.

# FATHER'S DAY **GAMES** Let's Go Fishing!

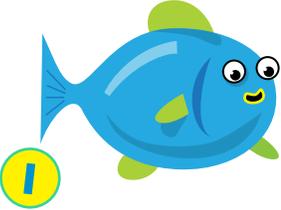
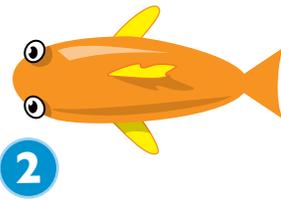
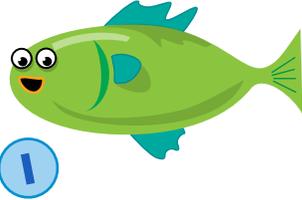
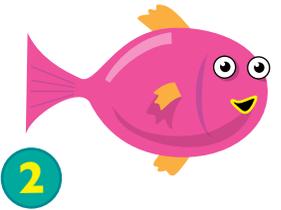
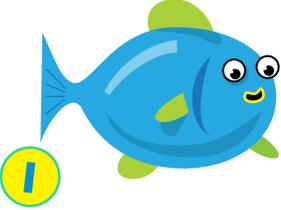
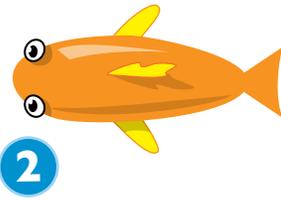
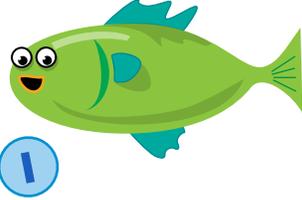
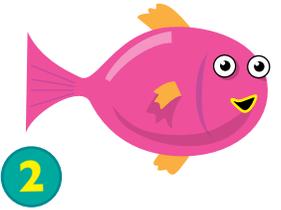
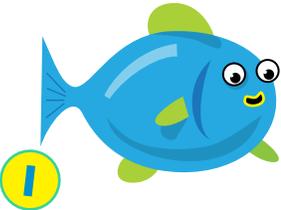
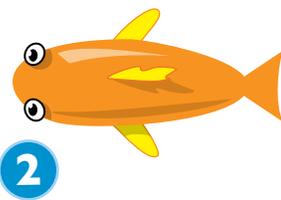
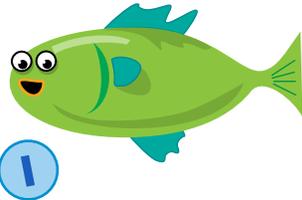
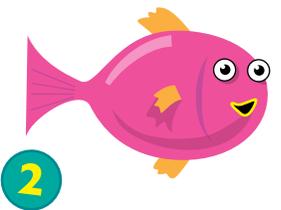
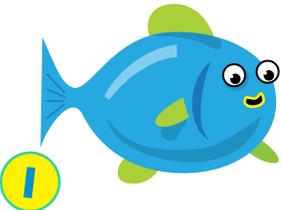
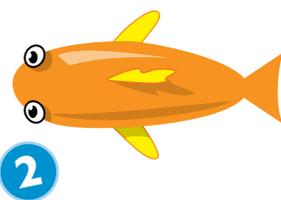
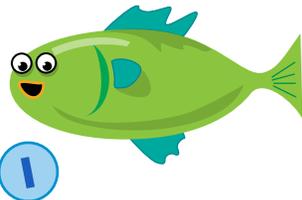
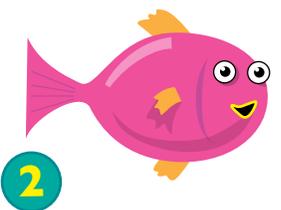
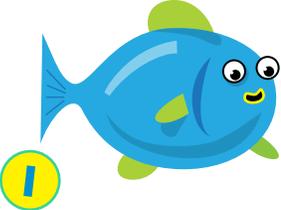
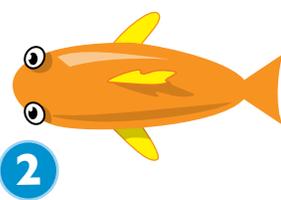
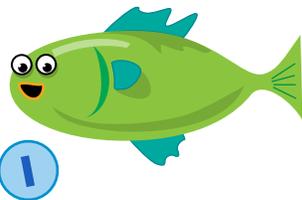
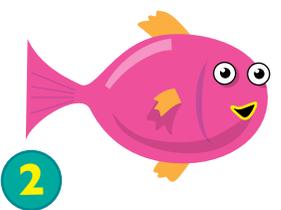
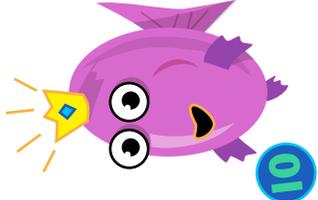


- 1 Have your Dad help cut out and assemble the dice and fish cards from pages 2 and 3.
- 2 Pile all the fish cards face down on the pond below.
- 3 Each player takes a turn at rolling the dice and follows the directions for “catching” fish.
- 4 When all the fish are gone from the pond, the players then add up the points from their fish cards and the one with the most points wins!



# FATHER'S DAY **GAMES** Let's Go Fishing!





# FATHER'S DAY **GAMES** Let's Go Fishing!



Fold on the dotted lines.

**Cut, fold** and then **tape** the dice together. **Now** you are ready to **play!**

