

MISSION CONSERVATION ACTIVITY GUIDE

September 2024 – Public Land Exploration

Exploring public lands is a great way to spend time with family and friends while immersing yourself in nature. You can enjoy various activities like camping, hiking, fishing, and casual walks through nearby parks.

There are a few things to keep in mind when visiting these parks, memorials, and preservation lands.

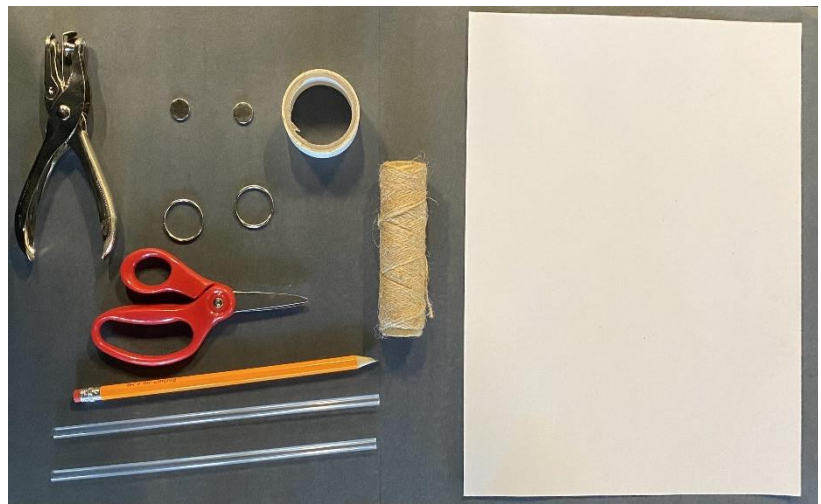
- 1.) **Safety:** Be prepared for the activity you plan to do. Preparation can be things like obtaining a map of the area, packing a first aid kit, and even informing friends or family about the area you plan to be in for emergency purposes.
- 2.) **Respect:** Be respectful in the areas you visit. Do your best not to disrupt the ecosystem you are in. View wildlife from a distance and be wary of habitats around you that could be damaged.
- 3.) **Responsibility:** Be responsible for things you bring into the ecosystem. A good rule to follow when exploring nature is to leave no trace. Do your best to leave the area just as you found it. Clean up trash and equipment you may have used while you are out.

Indoor Activity: Indoor Fishing

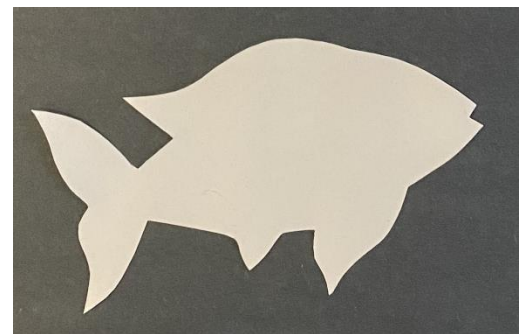
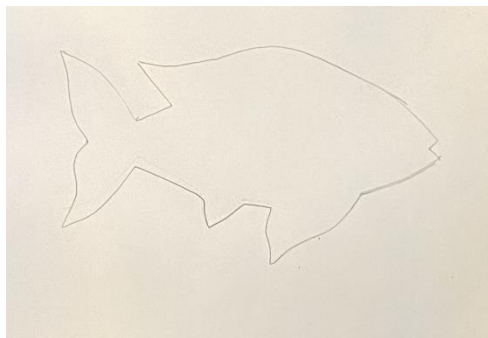


Materials:

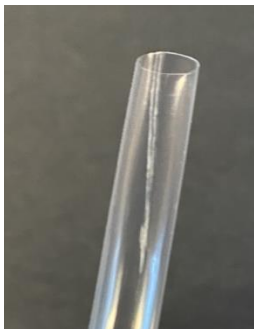
- Cardboard or cardstock (soda boxes and cereal boxes work well)
- 2 Plastic straws (rinsing straws from fast food restaurants work well for this craft)
- Thin string or yarn (old shoelaces will work too)
- Tape
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Hole puncher
- Keychain rings (old keychains)
- Small magnets (old fridge magnets)
- Markers (for fish decoration)



How to:



1. Draw a fish onto your cardboard or cardstock and cut the shape out.



2. Cut a 2-3 inch vertical line down one side of a straw.



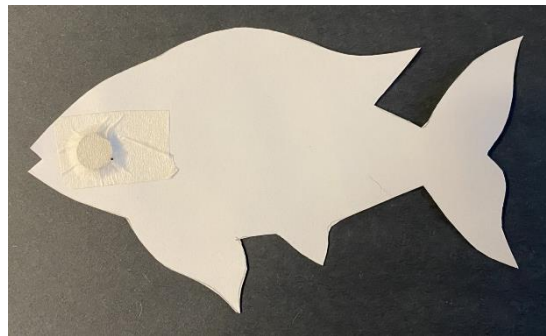
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3. Use the cut to curl your straw into itself making a skinnier straw.



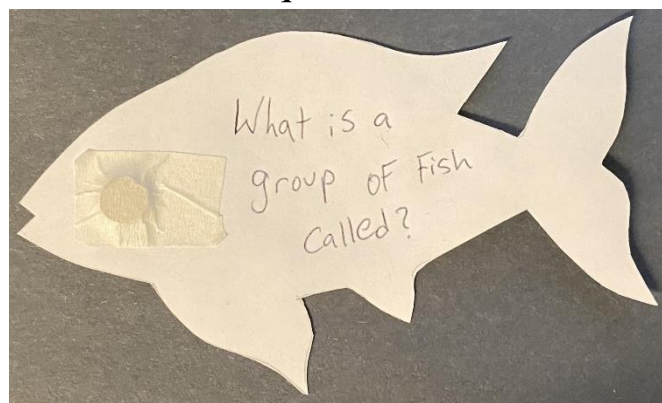
4. Slide the rolled straw into a second straw and tape them together.
5. Punch a hole through the end of the taped straws.
6. Tie one end of your string through the hole you punched in the straw and attach a keychain ring to the other end of the string.



7. Tape a magnet to one side of your fish. Try to get the magnet as close to the fish's mouth as you can.
8. Make as many fish as you can, decorate them, and go fishing!

Optional

Older children may want to add trivia questions to the back of each fish to use as a fun study tool.



Outdoor activity: Scavenger hunt!

Materials:

- Scavenger hunt list
- Water
- Camera *optional*
- Pen

What to do:

1. Print or copy the scavenger hunt list.
2. Decide on a public land area like a park or trail to walk through.
3. Mark wildlife off the list as you see them. Photos are a great way to learn about organisms after your walk.

Public Land Exploration Scavenger Hunt

Native insect:

Native mammal:

Native bird:

Native reptile:

Native amphibian:

Native flower:

Native tree: