Ice Fishing FRENZY!

Activity Book

MINNAQUA PROGRAM

Minnesota Water: Fishing, Boating, Hunting
Let’s Go Ice Fishing!

Ice fishing is a great way to take advantage of Minnesota’s cold weather and experience a fun winter adventure! This booklet includes information about fish, ice fishing equipment and safety, and dressing for winter. It is intended to accompany the ice fishing lessons in the MinnAqua Leaders Guide called *Fishing: Get in the Habitat*, published by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
Icy Fish I.D.

Common Fish Caught Ice Fishing

The Minnesota state record is 5 pounds. It has clear, paper-thin lips and black speckles and is a member of the sunfish family. Catch it with crappie minnows, night crawlers, or wax worms. What's its name?

The Minnesota state record is 2 pounds, 13 ounces. This fish is named for the blue color on the edge of its gill cover, or operculum. Use night crawlers, corn, or wax worms to catch this "panfish." What's its name?

Minnesota's Official State Fish. The Minnesota state record is 17 pounds, 8 ounces. It has a large eye that reflects and magnifies the presence of light, which is used to help it find food in the deep water it lives in. This fish feeds at night, so many anglers will fish after the sun goes down or early in the morning. Good baits are fathead minnows, leeches, and night crawlers. What's its name?

The Minnesota state record is 45 pounds, 12 ounces. One of the most aggressive fish in Minnesota, it eats smaller fish such as sunfish, perch, and white sucker. It has a duck-billed snout and very sharp teeth. Catch it with shiner and crappie minnows or a lure such as a jigging minnow. Tip-ups are often used to catch this big fish in the winter. What's its name?

Worth 20 Points_____
5 per correct answer
Hidden Message

ICE FISHING ADVENTURE CHECKLIST

Unscramble the words to come up with the gear you need to go ice fishing.

clktae oxb _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (2 words) Holds your hooks, bobbers, and sinkers.
iec oopsc _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (2 words) Clears snow from your hole in the ice.
cie geura _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (2 words) Drill holes in the ice.

mfaliy nda rfeidns _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (3 words) Ask these people to take you ice fishing.
xwa swrom _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (2 words) Fresh and wiggling.
jgglei tscki _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (2 words) Move this up and down to attract fish.
ngiisfh iclnsee _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (2 words) For those 16 or older.
ths hcoolctea _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (2 words) Warms you up inside.
fsrir dia tki _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (3 words) In case you need a band aid.

tekcub _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (1 word) To carry gear and sit on.

Icip-no pedht ifndre _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (4 words) Set your bobber.
Idneee-soned reilps _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (2 words) Removes the hook.
ulrre _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (1 word) Measures ice thickness and your fish.
regfinnla ppsreilc _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (2 words) Cuts line.

**Worth 14 Points**

1 per correct answer

In each of the words above, there is a circled letter. Unscramble the circled letters to reveal the mystery phrase.

write in circled letters here

unscuramble letters

Clue: The most important rule when ice fishing!

**Worth 9 Points**

3 points per word
When you go ice fishing you must pay attention to ice conditions so you don’t fall through. Do you know the ice thickness guidelines for new, clear, solid ice? Fill in how many inches thick the ice should be for each of the above activities. Look up the answers on the DNR Web site at mndnr.gov/safety/ice

Remember, other conditions can make ice unsafe. No ice is 100% safe!

What should you do if you fall through the ice?

1. Stay calm.
2. Turn towards the direction you came from.
3. Place your hands or arms on the ice surface and kick hard to slide your body onto the ice. If you have ice claws, dig the points of the picks into the ice.
4. Roll away from the area of weak ice.
5. Get to a warm and dry place as soon as possible and replace wet clothes with dry ones. Drink warm, non-alcoholic, and non-caffeinated drinks.
6. Seek medical assistance.

Worth 20 Points_____
5 per correct answer
To make it easier to pull yourself onto the surface of the wet and slippery ice, you can purchase a set of commercially made ice rescue picks or “claws” or, if you have a few simple tools and a little skill in the workshop, you can make a set for a couple of dollars for materials.

Save Yourself!

Make a Set of Ice Rescue Claws

1. Get two 4" pieces of wooden doweling the size of a broom handle or a little larger.

2. Drive a stout nail into one end of each dowel.

3. Use a file to sharpen the nail heads to a point.

4. Drill a hole into the dowels (in the end opposite the nail) and tie a length of strong cord through the hole so a pick is on each end “jump-rope” fashion. You may also drill a hole in the ends alongside the nails so the nail on the other pick can nest in the hole, keeping both points covered. Keep the picks in your pocket for quick emergency.

Worth 10 Points
Ice Fishing Dress Code

What should you wear when you go ice fishing? Circle the words in the word search below. Words may be across, diagonal, up or down, or backwards.

D S W S F T D V Z Y P I O J J
G L G W N A S N S K I R U Q G
S O Z P P E Z D A X J H Q M T
I N S U L A T E D B O O T S E
E G O L H M C T Q W D H I X W
D U R W U A I G I U S A M O O
N N O K P U D N N M B S E D O
G D S W E A T S H I R T Y H L
F E F T R E N P M E K X K V S
R R Z P R I Z T Y O L C L E O
V W J C M F O A S Z A O O T C
T E O Z A R L K E Q O T L T K
H A N D W A R M E R S Y M T S
T R K O K C X L C A J H E F X
Q O C K W S U P L H Z B I G R

HAND WARMERS  SCARF
HEAD BAND  SNOW PANTS
INSULATED BOOTS  STOCKING CAP
LAYERS  SWEATSHIRT
LONG UNDERWEAR  WINTER COAT
MITTENS  WOOL SOCKS

Worth 12 Points
1 per correct answer
ACROSS
1. Is ice always 100% safe?
3. Helps keep your icehouse warm
5. A potentially fatal condition in which the core body temperature drops
6. This fish has black speckles and paper thin lips
7. You must purchase one if you are 16 or older and fish
8. Night crawlers, leeches, wax worms, and minnows
9. Used to drill your ice fishing holes
10. Used to catch bigger fish like northern pike
12. Minnesota’s Official State Fish

DOWN
1. This fish has a duck-billed snout
2. Ice you want to avoid
4. A popular fishing technique where you move your bait or lure up and down in the water
6. You can turn this up-side-down and sit on it
8. This fish gets its name from the color of its gill cover
11. The number of lines you can have in the water at one time while ice fishing

Worth 15 Points______
1 per correct answer
Way to Go!
You earn 10 points for your new set of ice rescue claws (whether you made your own or bought a pair). Put them in your winter coat pocket for the next time you go ice fishing.

(**Answers to Hidden Message:**

Ice Fishing Equipment Checklist

- tackle box
- ice scoop
- ice auger
- family and friends
- wax worms
- jiggle stick
- fishing license
- hot chocolate
- first aid kit
- bucket
- clip-on depth finder
- needle-nosed pliers
- ruler
- black crappie
- black crappie
- hypothermia
- 5 inches for ice fishing
- 6 inches for car or small ATV (all-terrain vehicle)

**Put Safety First**

**Ice Fishing Safety Quiz**

1. no
2. thin
3. jigging
4. bucket
5. hypothermia
6. bucket
7. license
8. tip-up
9. auger
10. walleye

**Ice Fishing Jumble**

ACROSS
1. no
3. heater
5. hypothermia
6. black crappie
7. license
8. bait
9. auger
10. tip-up
12. walleye

DOWN
1. northern pike
2. thin
4. jigging
6. bucket
8. bluegill
11. two

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**Ice Fishing Dress Code**

Bluegill

**TOTAL SCORE:**

Gold-level expert: 90-100
Recreational angler: 70-90
Occasional angler: 50-70
Not your bag: 0-50

**Common Fish Caught Ice Fishing**

- walleye
- northern pike
- bluegill