

Planning a Fishing Trip

Are you fully prepared for your next fishin' mission?



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Please note: Academic Standards are updated regularly and our alignments will be updated on the DNR Academic Standards Website at: www.mndnr.gov/education/teachers/edstandards_intro.html

Planning a Fishing Trip

Minnesota Academic Standards

- ☉ Lesson *introduces* this Benchmark.
- ☪ Lesson *partially* addresses this Benchmark.
- ☑ Lesson *fully* addresses this Benchmark.

Language Arts

Grades 3, 4, 5

I. Reading and Literature

B. Vocabulary Expansion:

Benchmark 1—The student will acquire, understand and use new vocabulary through explicit instruction and independent reading. ☑

II. Writing

D. Research:

Benchmark 1—The student will use grade-level appropriate reference materials to obtain information from dictionaries, glossaries, encyclopedias, and the Internet. ☑

Grade 3

I. Reading and Literature

C. Comprehension:

Benchmark 3—The student will generate and answer literal, inferential, interpretive and evaluative questions to demonstrate understanding about what is read. ☑

Benchmark 4—The student will retell, restate or summarize information orally, in writing, and through graphic organizers. ☑

III. Speaking Listening, and Viewing

A. Speaking and Listening:

Benchmark 1—The student will participate in and follow agreed-upon rules for conversation and formal discussions in large and small groups. ☑

Benchmark 2—The student will demonstrate active listening and comprehension. ☑

Benchmark 4—The student will give oral presentations to different audiences for different purposes. ☑

Grade 4

I. Reading and Literature

C. Comprehension:

Benchmark 3—The student will generate and answer literal, inferential, interpretive and evaluative questions about what is read to demonstrate understanding. ☑

III. Speaking Listening, and Viewing

A. Speaking and Listening:

Benchmark 1—The student will participate in and follow agreed-upon rules for conversation and formal discussions in large and small groups. ☑

Benchmark 2—The student will demonstrate active listening and comprehension. ☑

Benchmark 3—The student will give oral presentations to different audiences for different purposes. ☑

Grade 5

I. Reading and Literature

C. Comprehension:

Benchmark 6—The student will generate graphic organizers to enhance comprehension of texts and to describe text structure and organization. ☑

Benchmark 7—The student will generate and answer literal, inferential, interpretive and evaluative questions to demonstrate understanding about what is read. ☑

III. Speaking Listening, and Viewing

A. Speaking and Listening:

Benchmark 1—The student will participate in and follow agreed-upon rules for conversation and formal discussions in large and small groups. ☑

Benchmark 2—The student will demonstrate active listening and comprehension. ☑

Benchmark 4—The student will give oral presentations to various audiences for different purposes. ☑

History and Social Studies

Grade K-3

V. Geography

A. Concepts of Location:

Benchmark 2—Students will use maps and globes to locate places referenced in stories and real life situations. 🗺️

Benchmark 4—Students will name and use directional words to describe locations of places in the school and community. Students will locate places by using simple maps, and understand that maps are drawings of locations and places as viewed from above. 🗺️

V. Geography

B. Maps and Globes:

Benchmark 1—Students will locate places by using simple maps, and understand that maps are drawings of locations and places as viewed from above. 🗺️

VII. Government and Citizenship

A. Civic Values, Skills, Rights and Responsibilities:

Benchmark 1—Students will demonstrate knowledge of civic values that facilitate thoughtful and effective participation in civic life. 🗺️

Grade 4-8

V. Geography

D. Interconnections:

Benchmark 2—Students will analyze how the physical environment influences human activities. 🗺️

V. Geography

E. Essential Skills:

Benchmark 1—Students will demonstrate the ability to obtain geographic information from a variety of print and electronic sources. 🗺️

Benchmark 2—Students will make inferences and draw conclusions about the character of places based on analyses and comparison of maps, aerial photos and other images. 🗺️

Science

Grade 3

I. History and Nature of Science

A. Scientific World View:

Benchmark 1—The student will explore the use of science as a tool that can help investigate and answer questions about the environment. 🗺️

III. Earth and Space Science

B. The Water Cycle, Weather and Climate:

Benchmark 1—The student will measure, record, and describe weather conditions using common instruments. 🗺️

Environmental Literacy Scope and Sequence

Benchmarks

- Social and natural systems are made of parts. (PreK-2)
- Social and natural systems may not continue to function if some of their parts are missing. (PreK-2)
- When the parts of social and natural systems are put together, they can do things they couldn't do by themselves. (PreK-2)
- In social and natural systems that consist of many parts, the parts usually influence one another. (3-5)
- Social and natural systems may not function as well if parts are missing, damaged, mismatched or misconnected. (3-5)

For the full Environmental Literacy Scope and Sequence, see:

www.seek.state.mn.us/eemn_c.cfm

Chapter 6 • Lesson 3

Planning a Fishing Trip

Grade Level: 3-5

Activity Duration: two 50-minute periods

Group Size: any

Subject Areas: Expressive Arts, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies

Academic Skills: communication, construction, mapping, reading, researching, small group work

Setting: Part 1: computer lab

Part 2: indoor or outdoor gathering area with tables

Vocabulary: Lake Finder, lake survey, limit, open season, pier, public access, regulations

Internet Search Words: Explore Minnesota, Minnesota DNR, National Weather Service; on the Minnesota DNR website: boat safety, compass, fish watch, fishing regulations, fishing reports, lake finder, maps, public water access, nature snapshots, recreation; on the Explore Minnesota website: bait, fishing guide, guide service, lodging, tackle

Instructor's Background Information

If you want to go fishing, the first things to decide are where you want to go and what kind of fish you want to catch. Knowing which fish live in your chosen lake, what they eat (so you can choose appropriate bait and lures), and familiarity with fishing **regulations**, laws that govern fishing in the state, will help you plan your fishing trip. The Internet is a great tool for finding information about Minnesota lakes and fish. An important resource for anglers planning a fishing adventure is the Minnesota DNR website at **mndnr.gov**. On this site, anglers can quickly and easily locate detailed information on Minnesota lakes, the fish in those lakes, and rules to follow while fishing. By browsing through the main categories on the Minnesota DNR home page, or by searching with keywords, anglers can gather a variety of critical information that will help them enjoy a safe and successful fishing trip.

The Minnesota DNR website contains a **Lake Finder** feature. Lake Finder contains research data for more than 4,500 lakes throughout Minnesota. The data provides information from lake surveys, lake depth maps, water quality, fish consumption advisories, and other information. In addition to Lake Finder, the Minnesota DNR website contains information on fishing licenses, fishing regulations, public access points, fishing piers, and fish identification.

Lake Surveys

The Minnesota DNR is the lead agency responsible for fisheries management in Minnesota. Lake management plans are developed from **lake surveys** conducted during the summer by fisheries staff.

Summary

There are many things to consider in planning a safe, successful fishing trip. Students will gather information from a variety of sources, including the Minnesota DNR website, plan a fishing trip and make a poster illustrating how they planned for a safe, successful trip.

Student Objectives

The students will:

- 1 Find fishing and lake information on the Minnesota DNR website.
- 2 Utilize the Minnesota DNR website and other sources to gather information on a specific lake and the types of fish they want to catch on a trip to that lake, including:
 - a map of the lake
 - a fish species inhabiting the lake
 - that fish species' diet
 - relevant fishing regulations (such as open fishing season and catch limits) for that fish
 - the location of a fishing pier or public access
 - weather and other safety considerations
 - local lodging, guide services, and bait shops
- 3 Create a poster showing the steps of planning a fishing trip and other information needed to ensure a safe, successful fishing trip.

Materials

- Computers with Internet access
- *Minnesota Fishing Regulations* (booklet available from Minnesota DNR and local vendors that sell Minnesota fishing licenses)
- Printer
- Poster boards
- Construction paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers, crayons, or paints
- County public water access maps, one for each group of three or four students (may be ordered from the DNR Information Center at 888-646-6367)
- **Poster Guidelines for Planning a Fishing Trip Sheet**, one for each group of three or four students



Creel surveys are another type of lake survey. DNR creel clerks interview anglers at water access sites, asking them about the quantities, types, and sizes of fish caught, and how long they fished. Creel surveys also play an important role in evaluating management plans and helping fisheries managers set objectives.

Lake surveys involve sampling fish populations using trap nets, gill nets and seines, aquatic plant surveys, and tests of water clarity and chemistry, as well as the monitoring of wildlife habitat. Lakes are surveyed on a rotating schedule determined by a lake's management plan objectives, available fishery resources, size, and accessibility. Some lakes are surveyed each year, while others may only be surveyed once every ten years. Lake survey data results are used to produce lake management plans that help the DNR track fish population trends, evaluate the effectiveness of management actions (such as stocking and aquatic plant restoration), and establish management goals for the lake.

Lake Maps

Aerial views of lakes are fascinating—and they simplify the planning of a safe, successful fishing trip. Lake maps provide instructions on how to get to the lake, as well as information on size, depth, and the location of good fishing spots. Maps also provide insight into safety considerations particular to each lake. They also show how to reach other nearby lakes that may be accessible through channels or streams.

Public Accesses and Fishing Piers

Before venturing onto a lake, anglers must know where they may launch boats or fish from shore. **Public access** refers to those lake areas where people may legally carry in or launch boats by trailer. Use of Minnesota DNR public access areas is free, and most access areas are open 24 hours. **Fishing piers** (floating, wooden structures) and shore fishing sites are designated public fishing sites. There is no cost to use a Minnesota DNR public pier or shore fishing site, but private owners, local units of government, and parks may charge for the use of their facilities. Public access or fishing piers aren't available on every lake in Minnesota—anglers must know where it's legal to launch a boat or fish from shore so they can avoid trespassing on private property. Always respect private property while fishing on the water or shore.



Fishing piers offer enhanced fishing opportunities across the state.

Minnesota Fish

When planning a fishing trip, anglers naturally think about the fish they're hoping to catch. To increase their chances of catching their favorite type of fish, anglers should take time to learn its feeding preferences so they can select the correct baits and lures. The DNR website provides illustrations and general information on the habits of common Minnesota fish.

Regulations

Fishing regulations are laws planned and enacted to maintain healthy fish populations throughout the state. If all anglers follow and support these rules today, they'll continue to enjoy good fishing tomorrow. The Minnesota fishing regulations booklet summarizes Minnesota fishing laws and regulations in effect for the current year. It's an excellent resource for checking a fish species' **open season** (the time of the year anglers may fish for a certain species of fish) and **limit** (how many of these fish anglers may legally possess). Additional fish identification tips are also included. The booklet includes information and special or experimental regulations designed for particular lakes or streams. These regulations override the general regulations for those waters. The Minnesota fishing regulations booklet is available through the Minnesota DNR and from other vendors, including many bait shops, fishing sports equipment stores, and gas stations that sell Minnesota fishing licenses. Fishing regulations are also posted on the Minnesota DNR website.

Minnesota State Parks

Many State Parks in Minnesota provide excellent fishing opportunities. The Minnesota DNR website contains links to Minnesota State Parks, including their locations, park maps, programs and activities, and information on reserving camping and lodging facilities. Rangers in the parks can also provide good fishing tips.

Lodging, Guide Services, and Bait Shops

Other details useful in planning a fishing trip include information on lodging, guide services, and bait shops. The websites and offices of Minnesota tourism or Chambers of Commerce provide excellent information, such as details on local resorts and motels, guide services, and bait shops. They can also suggest activities other than fishing—when you're taking a break, or for fellow travelers who don't fish. Local bait shop owners and guides know their area's "hot" fishing spots, and may even suggest the best tackle or baits.



A public access site.



Weather Updates and Boating Safety

Safety is a priority when planning a fishing trip. Before setting out, anglers should check the local weather predicted to confirm safe conditions. If storms are forecast, anglers should postpone a boat trip to a lake, especially to large lakes where waves can become dangerous. Weather forecasts also dictate what anglers need to wear. Hot summer days require sunscreen, hats, and lots of water; cold days call for warm, layered clothing.

Weather can also affect fish movement and feeding activity. As the saying goes, “Wind from the east, fish bite least; wind from the west, fish bite best.” The movement of cold fronts may account for this phenomenon.

When planning to fish by boat, you must follow safe boat operating procedures and pack the proper emergency safety equipment. Wearing a lifejacket on a boat should be as automatic as wearing a seat belt in a car. You must also follow boating safety rules. Safety courses are offered through the Minnesota DNR, whose Boat & Water Safety program provides safety information and public education, including a free—and mandatory—boating and safety education program for people between the ages of 12 and 17. The Minnesota Boating Guide summarizes Minnesota boating laws and regulations in an easy-to-read format. It supplies the information that boaters need if they’re to operate watercraft on the state’s lakes and rivers. The guidebook includes boating and water regulations and other laws.

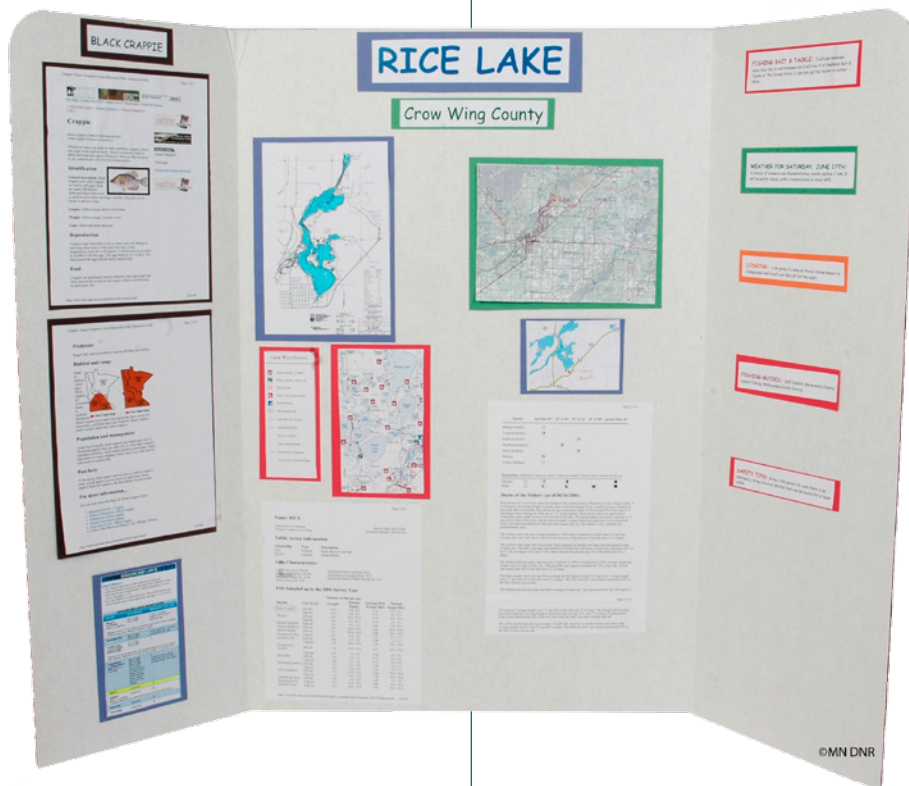
The Boat Operator’s Course and Test Packet can be ordered online, or the Boat Minnesota course can be taken online at **mndnr.gov**

Nothing guarantees that you’ll catch a fish, but planning and preparation will certainly improve your chances, and your fishing trip will be safe and lots of fun. And *that’s* a successful fishing trip!

Procedure

Preparation

- 1 Become familiar with the Minnesota DNR website. Click on Lake Finder and explore the Lake Survey and Lake Map features. Back on the Minnesota DNR home page, click on Maps, and then, under Online Maps and Recreation, click on Water Access for public access and fishing pier maps. From the Minnesota DNR home page, again click on Regulations, Licenses & Permits to find the fishing regulations booklet. Search the DNR website for the Nature Snapshots and Fish Watch areas for information about fish. See the Safe Boating area for safety tips.
- 2 Order a set of county public water access maps for your area. You'll need one for each group of students. To order, contact the DNR Information Center at 1-888-646-6367.
- 3 For student reference, create a poster highlighting information on planning a fishing trip to a lake. Include all necessary information listed under the Objectives section, or use the **Poster Guidelines for Planning a Fishing Trip Sheet** as a guide.
- 4 Copy the **Poster Guidelines for Planning a Fishing Trip Sheet**, one per group of three or four students.
- 5 Collect poster board, construction paper, and art supplies for the students to use in creating their posters.
- 6 Arrange for computer lab time to complete this assignment.
- 7 You may want to pre-select the lakes that the students look up and explore.



The DNR website's Lake Finder contains information on 4,500 lakes with public access and have been surveyed by the Minnesota DNR Fisheries Section—all Minnesota lakes aren't listed.

 **Activity****Warm-up**

- 1 Ask the students what kind of information they would need to plan a successful fishing trip to a lake they haven't previously fished.
- 2 Discuss why we have fishing laws and regulations, and why fishing regulations vary for different types of fish and water bodies. "If you fish, you share the responsibility to practice good stewardship of the fisheries resource." What does this statement mean? If you're not old enough to need a fishing license, do you have to follow fishing regulations? (In Minnesota, you aren't required to carry a fishing license until you're sixteen, but anglers of all ages must follow the fishing regulations.)
- 3 Ask students where they could find the types of information they need for planning a safe and successful fishing trip. Inform them that the many types of information they need is available on the Minnesota DNR website. Demonstrate how to access and navigate the website.
- 4 Provide examples and suggestions for other sources of information as noted on the **Poster Guidelines for Planning a Fishing Trip Sheet**. Most Minnesota fishing regulations can be found in the Minnesota fishing regulations booklet.
- 5 Explain that, using the Internet, they will create a poster that illustrates the planning of a safe and successful fishing trip. The poster should include information needed to plan a trip to a lake of their choice. Show an example of a poster containing all information noted in the Objectives section. Emphasize that each group's poster should feature all of these considerations. Have the students use the Minnesota DNR website and other sources to gather information on a specific lake and the types of fish they'd like to catch on a trip to that lake, including:
 - a map of the lake
 - fish species inhabiting the lake
 - that fish species' diet
 - relevant fishing regulations (such as open fishing season and catch limits) for that fish
 - the location of a fishing pier or public access
 - weather and other safety considerations
 - local lodging, guide services, and bait shopsShow the steps for planning a fishing trip and other information needed to ensure a safe, successful fishing trip.

Lesson

- 1 Divide students into groups of three or four.
- 2 Have each group choose a Minnesota lake and plan a fishing trip to that lake. Or, allow students to choose from several lakes that you've selected in advance.
- 3 Have students collect the information listed below from the Minnesota DNR website and other recommended sites. The Search

DNR feature should be used to search for keywords within the DNR website. Direct links may exist from the home page to some of these sites at the time students do this lesson, so those shortcuts may be used as well.

- **Demonstrate how to use the Lake Finder.**
Go to mndnr.gov to access the home page of the Minnesota DNR website. Click on “Lake Finder.” From the Lake Finder page, you can access lake survey data by entering the name of the lake or the county in which the lake is located. The lake name and county will appear with a table of information. Show students that selecting items in the table provides additional information about those items. Examination of a Lake Survey will provide a list of fish species found in the lake and their relative abundance. Have students select one of these fish species (one that they’d like to fish for) to further investigate.
- **Have students go to the Minnesota DNR website, locate the Lake Finder feature and print a Lake Survey report of their lake.**



Can’t find your lake in the Lake Finder? The DNR has surveyed most Minnesota lakes, but not all of them. Large lakes that experience heavy fishing pressure may be surveyed every year or two; others may not have been surveyed for ten or fifteen years. Lakes that have never been surveyed don’t appear in Lake Finder.

The screenshot shows the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website. The navigation bar includes links for Recreation, Destinations, Nature, Education / safety, and Licenses / permits / regs. The main content area is titled "Lake Finder" and is divided into two sections: "Find a lake" and "Find stocking reports".

Find a lake
 This section includes a search form with a "Lake Name/ID" field, an "AND/OR" separator, and a "County" dropdown menu. A "Get lake data" button is located below the form. To the right, a text box explains that the Lake Finder contains data for more than 4,500 lakes and rivers throughout Minnesota, including lake surveys, lake depth maps, lake water quality data, lake water clarity data, satellite-based water clarity information, lake notes, and fish consumption advice. It also mentions a link to a list of lakes infested with invasive species and selected infestation maps.

Find stocking reports
 This section includes a search form with a "Report Year" dropdown menu (set to 2008), an "AND" separator, a "County" dropdown menu (set to All Counties), an "AND/OR" separator, and a "Species" dropdown menu (set to All Species). A "Generate Report" button is located below the form. To the right, a text box explains that the stocking report section provides access to stocking activity by fish species and/or county. Reports are comprised of information for many lakes and are intended as a summary. A link to "Making sense of stocking reports" is provided.

- **Have students print a lake map of their lake—retrieve one by selecting “lake map” or “topographic maps.”** Within Lake Finder, there are two methods for students to obtain a bird’s-eye view of their lake. The report headings “lake map” and “topographic map” direct students to maps that provide an aerial view of the lake. Topographic maps also display information about surrounding lands. Both lake map styles feature zoom in tools that reveal more detailed information. Find another useful feature by doing a keyword search for “Recreation Compass,” or simply click that heading on the homepage of the Minnesota DNR website. Some of the maps and aerial photographs can be found at this site. From one of these locations, students should print a map of their lake to use on their poster.
- **Have students find public accesses and fishing piers on their lake. Demonstrate how to find pier maps on the DNR website—under Search DNR, type in “public water access.”**



The online county public water access maps can be difficult to navigate due to the small size on the computer screen. Using hard copies of the county public water access maps makes it easier for students to find piers and other public water accesses on their lakes.

To find maps of fishing piers and public shore fishing sites in Minnesota, students can conduct a search using keywords “maps,” “public water access,” or “water access.” The Statewide Fishing Pier map and county Public Water Access maps provide information about public fishing and boat launching sites.

- **Have student groups use the county public water access maps to find the fishing accesses and piers on the lake each group has chosen.**
- **Have students find food preferences for their fish species—under Search DNR, type “nature snapshots,” then click on Fish.** In the Fish section, students can select their fish species to find out what it likes to eat. This site also describes the distribution of the fish throughout the state and other interesting facts about its characteristics and behaviors. Students may wish to print an illustration of their fish from this site, or search other websites for additional images to use on their poster.
- **Have students find the fishing seasons and limits for their chosen fish species—under Search DNR, type “fishing regulations.”** The complete DNR fishing regulations booklet can be viewed at this site. To find information on the fishing season and limits for various fish in effect for the current year, students should open this site’s regulations book and go to the “Seasons and Limits” bookmark, which will direct them to that chapter. Students should also check the section marked “Treaty, Experimental, and Special Regulations” to determine if any special regulations are in effect for their lake, such as size or number limits. Special regulations can override other season and limit regulations for their chosen fish species.
- **Have students find safety information—under Search DNR, type in “boat safety.”** If students are planning on fishing by boat, they can find boat safety tips on the DNR website by performing a search with keywords “boat safety.” Required boat safety equipment is provided on this site in the *Safe Boating Guide*. The complete guide booklet can be viewed here. Students should examine the sections on required equipment and boating safety tips for information to display on their poster. Boat and water safety tips can also be found in the DNR fishing regulations booklet. Students should visit a weather website to obtain the current weather forecast. This will help them decide the best days and times to take their trip. They can go to the National Weather Service website at www.nws.noaa.gov, or they can visit a local radio or television station website for weather links. On their posters, they should display the weather forecast for upcoming days.

- **Look for lodging, guide services, and bait shops.** Minnesota’s state tourism website, www.exploreminnesota.com, offers information on lodging, guide service, and bait and tackle shops near lakes. On this site, students can search for keywords such as “lodging,” “guide service,” “fishing guide,” “bait,” and “tackle” to find local listings. If students can’t find all of the information on this site, they could also search a local city’s Chamber of Commerce website.
- 4 After they’ve located and printed or recorded all information needed to plan their fishing trip, students should create a display on poster board. Encourage imaginative and artistic displays providing various fishing trip information in both printed and hand-designed forms. Students may want to consider providing their viewers with interactive opportunities like three-dimensional elements, or features with moveable pieces.

Wrap-up

In a presentation to the class, team members can share information on their fishing site, how they planned their trip, and things they considered during their planning process. Allow time for the students to view other groups’ posters after the presentations.

Assessment Options

- 1 Evaluate the posters. Make sure they include the following information:
 - a map of the lake
 - a fish species inhabiting the lake
 - that fish species’ diet
 - relevant fishing regulations (such as open fishing season and catch limits) for that fish
 - the location of a fishing pier or public access
 - weather and other safety considerations
 - local lodging, guide services, and bait shops
- 2 Have students design an informational brochure entitled *Planning Your Fishing Trip* that includes the same elements.
- 3 Another assessment option entails having the students choose their own assessment method. They could choose to do Assessment 1, Assessment 2, write a story or skit to address the elements in the assessments, or design their own assessment project or method that demonstrates that they’ve met the lesson’s objectives.
- 4 Assessment options include the Checklist and Rubric on the following pages.

Checklists are tools for students and instructors. Checklists involve students in managing their own learning. They help students understand and set learning goals before the lesson begins, and help them monitor their progress during the lesson, ensuring that they meet learning goals and objectives by the end of the lesson. Students can also use checklists to discover areas that may need improvement. Checklists help instructors monitor each student’s progress throughout the lesson, facilitating appropriate adjustment of instruction to ensure learning by the end of the lesson. The instructor may wish to have students add several of their own learning goals to the checklist to personalize it, and to accommodate varied learning needs and styles.

Planning a Fishing Trip Checklist

Possible Points	Points Earned	Points Earned	
	Student	Instructor	
4	_____	_____	Use the Internet to locate the Lake Finder feature on the Minnesota DNR website; find a map of the Minnesota lake that is the destination for your planned fishing trip
2	_____	_____	Locate information about a fish species on the Minnesota DNR website, including: the diet of one fish species, limits/seasons/other regulations for that fish, recommended bait and tackle, how to fish for that species, etc.
2	_____	_____	Locate hotel and lodging information for a Minnesota Lake using the Explore Minnesota website or a local city Chamber of Commerce website.
3	_____	_____	Locate weather information on the Internet, from a newspaper, or other weather report for an area near a particular Minnesota lake.
4	_____	_____	Locate resources and information for a Minnesota lake, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a lake map • where to fish for a particular species (habitat preferred by chosen species) • lake accesses • weather information • considerations regarding boating safety, water safety, handling fish safely, etc. • local guide services, bait shops, restaurants, and other recreational activities

4	_____	_____	Use all information to plan a fishing trip by making a fishing trip plan poster, brochure, or writing a skit about how to plan a fishing trip.
2	_____	_____	Include plans that address rainy weather and storms, what to do if the fish aren't biting, or other unexpected things that might happen on the trip.
2	_____	_____	State two reasons why it's important to collect information and make good plans, including safety considerations.

Total Points

23 _____ **Score** _____

Grade**20-23 points = A**

Excellent. Work is above expectations.

17-19 points = B

Good. Work meets expectations.

14-16 points = C

Work is generally good. Some areas are better developed than others.

11-13 points = D

Work does not meet expectations, it's not clear that student understands objectives.

0-10 points = F

Work is unacceptable.

Planning a Fishing Trip Scoring Rubric

Fishing Trip, Poster, Brochure or Skit Criteria	4 Excellent	3 Good	2 Fair	1 Poor	0 Unacceptable
Fishing trip components and lake map	Uses a lake map with location of where to fish for a particular species, species information, lake accesses, seasons/limits information, type of bait to use (what the fish species eats), weather information, safety considerations, lodging sites, guide services, bait shops, and other recreational activities for the area, to help plan a fishing trip, fishing trip planning skit, poster, or brochure.	Uses a lake map with location of where to fish for a specific species, and at least four additional pieces of information to help plan a fishing trip, fishing trip planning skit, trip planning poster, or brochure.	Uses a lake map with location of where to fish for a specific species, and at least three additional pieces of information to plan a fishing trip.	Uses at least two pieces of information to plan a fishing trip.	Doesn't use at least three pieces of information to plan a fishing trip.
Research	Can use the Internet to locate the Minnesota DNR website. Can find fishing and lake information on the site that will help to plan a fishing trip. Can collect and identify at least four other sources of information helpful in planning a fishing trip.	Can use the Internet to locate the Minnesota DNR website. Can find fishing and lake information on the site that will help to plan a fishing trip. Can collect and identify three other sources of information helpful in planning a fishing trip.	Can use the Internet to locate the Minnesota DNR website. With assistance, can find fishing and lake information on the site that will help to plan a fishing trip. Can collect and identify two other sources of information helpful in planning a fishing trip.	Can use the Internet to locate two types of information on fishing and/or lakes in Minnesota.	Finds no resources or information that will help to plan a fishing trip.
Fishing trip plan	Can produce a fishing trip plan that is thorough, and makes the connection that planning and gathering information and resources will help ensure a safe and more successful fishing trip. The plan considers multiple aspects of a fishing trip, considers safety precautions, and contains contingency or plans, (i.e. what to do in poor weather.)	Can produce a plan that makes the connection that planning and gathering information and resources will help ensure a safe and more successful fishing trip. The plan considers multiple aspects of a fishing trip and considers safety precautions.	Can produce a plan that makes the connection that planning will help ensure a safe and more successful fishing trip. The plan considers multiple aspects of a fishing trip, including at least one safety precaution.	Can produce a minimal plan for a fishing trip. The plan considers at least two aspects of a fishing trip.	Doesn't produce a plan for a fishing trip.

Score _____ (Calculate score by dividing total points by number of criteria.)

Diving Deeper

Extensions

- 1 In addition to the poster, ask students to map a driving route from their school to the lake. They could print a map and highlight the road(s) that lead from school to the nearest public access or pier.
- 2 Organize an actual fishing trip to a local lake. Prior to this fishing trip, have students research the lake. Have students invite parents or caregivers, grandparents, or a group of younger students to the fishing trip they've planned.
- 3 Ask students to examine some local newspapers, sports publications, and websites to view current fishing reports. The DNR website provides several links to fishing publications. Students can search for the keywords "fishing reports" for information from publications such as *Outdoor News*, *Explore Minnesota*, *Outdoors Weekly*, and the *Star Tribune* fishing page.

For the Small Fry

K-2 Option

- 1 Have students plan a fishing trip—without using Internet resources—but focusing on safety and preparation. As a class, compile a list of basic fishing equipment, clothing, and safety gear, as well as things to do before leaving, like teaming up with a responsible adult fishing buddy. Display a collection of the equipment, or symbols of these themes, in a box in the front of the class. Each time the class comes up with an item on the list, a different student can come to the front of the class, collect that item, and move it to another location to signify that it's been "packed" for the trip.
- 2 Watch the *Grandpa, Can We Go Fishing?* video program available through the MinnAqua Program.

STUDENT COPY

Names _____ Date _____

Poster Guidelines for Planning a Fishing Trip Sheet

You will create a poster about planning a safe and successful fishing trip to a lake. Follow the guidelines below to help you find information to include in your poster. Check off each item after you collect that information. You can also look for other information that will help you plan your fishing trip. Record all the information you collect. You will include this information in your Planning a Fishing Trip poster.

Checklist

1. Search for fish information and lake data on the **Minnesota DNR Website**. Go to **mndnr.gov** and go to **Lake Finder**.

Choose a lake. **What is your lake name? Which county is it in?** Does your lake have a Lake Survey? If not, choose another lake. Lake name:

Find and print the **Lake Survey** for your lake. What is at least one fish species you would like to catch in this lake? Fish species:

Find and print the **lake map** for your lake.

Find **public accesses and fishing piers** for your lake. This may be called water access. Add these to your map.

Find the fishing regulations. What is the **fishing season, size limit and possession limit** for the fish you chose?

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- Search for “**Nature Snapshots**” and “**Fish Watch**” for information about fish.
What does your chosen fish like to eat? Which baits and tackle will catch them?

- Search for “Safe Boating.” **What are some safety tips people should consider when fishing from a boat?** _____

2. Now explore the Internet outside of the DNR website.
- Choose a weekend to go fishing. Try the National Weather Service website at **www.nws.noaa.gov** or visit a local radio or television station’s website for weather links. **What is the weather forecast or typical weather during the time of your fishing trip?** _____

- For local lodging, guide services, and bait shops, try the state tourism website, **www.exploreminnesota.com**, or search a local Chamber of Commerce website. **Will you camp or stay in a hotel? Where will you stay overnight? How much will it cost?** _____

- When people are new to an area, they sometimes use a fishing guide. List some fishing guides available near your lake.

- What is the name of a store where you will **buy your bait?** _____
 Can you **collect your own bait?** _____ What is the name of a store where you **will buy fishing tackle?** _____