

# Young Angler Activity Packet

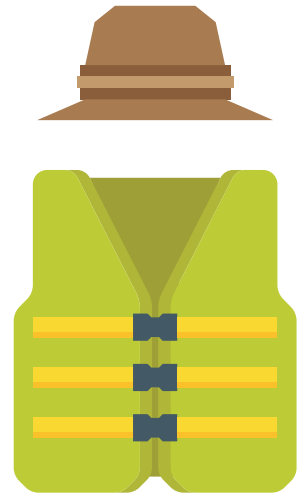


## Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

*Grade Level: 5*

### *Activities in this packet:*

- How to Assemble your Fishing Pole, [page 2](#)
- Tying an Improved Clinch Knot, [page 3](#)
- Tips for Successful Fishing, [page 4](#)
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- Video Links
  - Fishing Pole Basics <https://youtu.be/CgYPnuVoVw>
  - Virtual Field Trip Fishing <https://youtu.be/95u653RTMqo>



### *Additional Resources*

- Fish Migration <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzIBtMFC43s>
- US Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist “Fishin’ Blues” Song  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYNAPdFQZ3Q>
- Conservation Connect- Fisheries biologist and electrofishing  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpkMC3Jzxa0>
- Conservation Connect- Brook Trout  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYPE4oMcDt0>
- Watch some Brook Trout <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bma9dBmv6Yk>
- “I fish because” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nq8TRqXAT1k>

# Young Angler

## How to Assemble your Fishing Pole



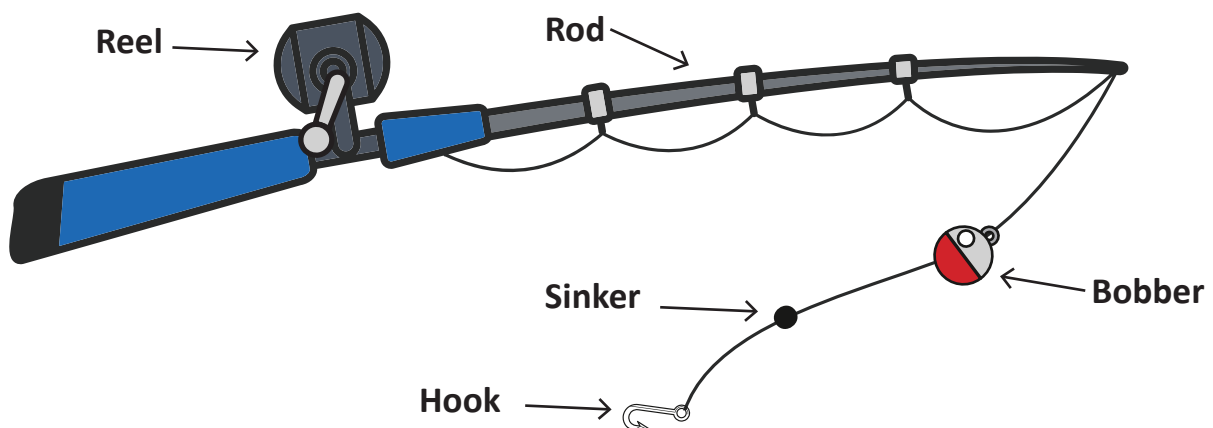
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#### *Gather these materials:*

- rod (pole) and reel
- bobber
- non-lead fishing weight, also called a sinker
- non-lead hook

#### *Assembling your pole:*

1. Some poles or rods come in two pieces. If this is the case for your pole, put the top and bottom pieces together, making sure to line up the eyes of the pole.
2. Push the button on the bottom of the reel and pull out enough line to thread through all the eyes to the top and then halfway back down (see image below). Turn the reel handle until you hear a “click”. This will lock the line in place so it doesn’t keep unraveling.
3. Using pliers or your fingers, put a sinker about 6 inches from where the hook would be and clamp its “mouth” onto the line.
4. Add a bobber to your pole’s line above the sinker. Once on the line, the bobber can be adjusted further up or down depending on how far off the bottom of the lake you want your hook to be.
5. The last step is to tie on your hook! For practice, use a paper clip. Follow the steps for tying an improved clinch knot on the next page.



# Young Angler

## Tying an Improved Clinch Knot

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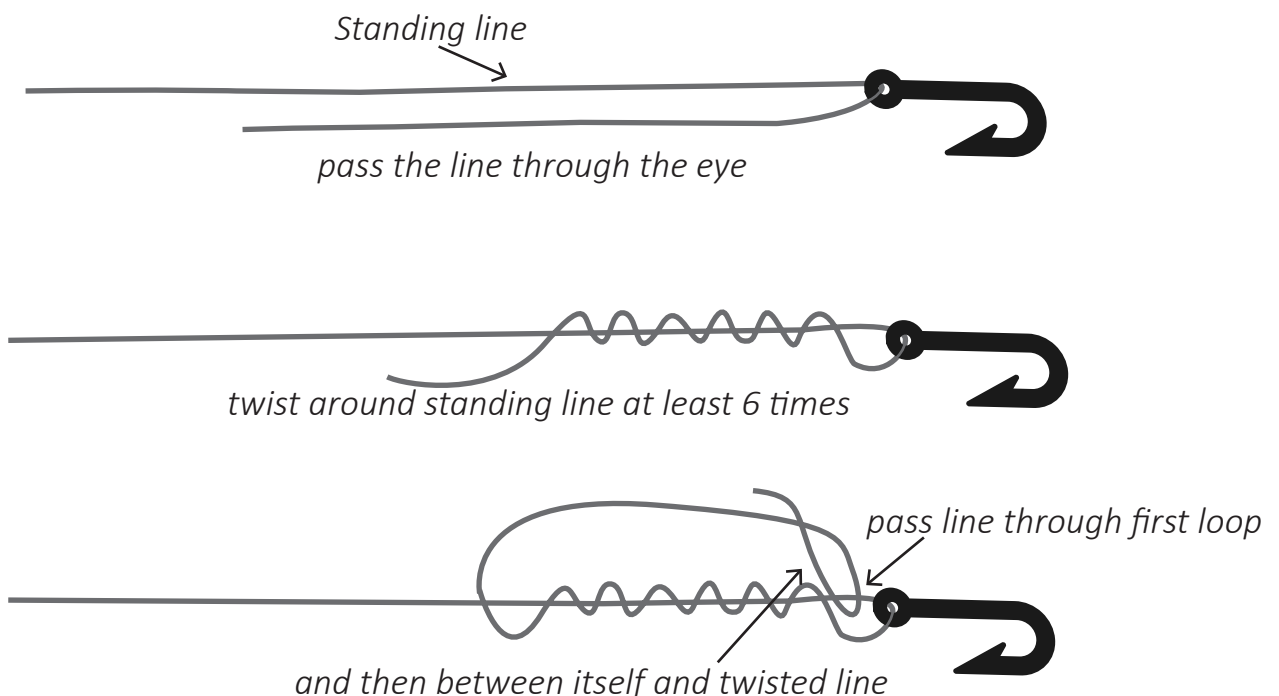
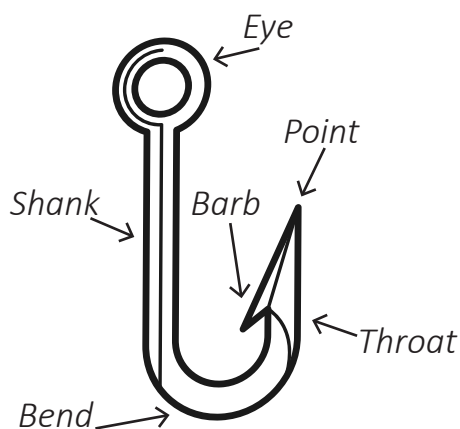


#### *Gather these materials:*

- Fishing line or string
- Stick or stationary object
- Paper clip
- Non-lead hook

#### *Tying the hook on the line:*

1. Wrap the string around a stationary object. A chair leg would work.
2. Twist the line around the standing line 5-7 times.
3. Pass the line through the first loop, then between itself and the twisted line.
4. Tighten the knot.
5. Keep trying until you are comfortable tying the knot. Use fishing line and a paper clip to get used to something smaller, then practice with a hook.



# Tips for Successful Fishing

- Know the [rules and regulations](#) for each fishing location.
- Practice at home first. Make sure you are comfortable casting and tying knots.
- Get permission from an adult. If you are allowed to fish on your own, always tell an adult where you plan to fish and when you plan to return.
- To find a lake near you check the [Fishing in the Neighborhood website](#).
- Be patient and keep trying. It can take several casts or even a full day before you catch a fish. If a spot isn't working, it's ok to try someplace new.
- Pack it in, pack it out. Pick up all trash you bring and leave nothing behind.
- Respect others by keeping space between you and other anglers.
- Bring a tackle box:
  - You don't need anything fancy. You can even make your own box out of a plastic food container.
  - Add extra hooks and a variety of colored lures, an extra bobber, and sinkers.
  - A needle-nose pliers is helpful for getting hooks out that are too deep in the fish's mouth.
  - Adding a small first-aid kit is a good idea too.
- Learn about the [fish species of Minnesota](#) and be able to identify your catch.



# Fishing Word Search

Scan the letters below to find fishing related words.

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

bait  
bass  
crappie  
bluegill  
pumpkinseed  
rod

reel  
knot  
hook  
sinker  
bobber  
angler

cast  
habitat  
pond  
lake  
minnow  
worm

leave no trace  
responsible  
safety

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