



Fantastic Fish

Fish are a great natural wonder to watch, raise, and even eat. Ohio is home to 40,000 miles of streams. We have access to Lake Erie and inland water, which totals approximately 2.4 million acres of possible fish habitat.



Looking closer at our waterways, you can find over 160 different species of fish swimming about. They come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors. They can be found in lakes, rivers, streams, ponds and small creeks.

Books about Fish

Here are some books to learn more about fish:

One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish by Dr. Seuss

Fish is Fish by Leo Lionni

The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister

McElligots Pool by Dr. Seuss

With so many fish, where do you start to learn more about them?

You can divide fish into two basic categories, sport fish and all of the others. The sport fish category includes all of the fish that you can catch with a fishing rod. This includes fish like sunfish, crappie, bass, wall-eye, perch, catfish and trout, just to name a few



of the 27 commonly caught species in Ohio.

The fish in the "other" category include some of the smaller fish or less common fish. Darters,

Swim Swim by Lerch
Trout, Trout, Trout! (A fish chant) by April Pulley Sayre
Fish Eyes: A Book You Can Count On by Lois Ehlert
Memoirs of a Goldfish by Devin Scillian
The Three Little Fish and

shiners, minnows, and dace fall into this category. They may be more likely to be found residing in streams and inland waterways.

Within Ohio, there are approximately 3,300 named

streams that include everything from tiny rivulets to the mighty Ohio River. Two-thirds of the state's waterways drain into the Ohio River, while the northern one-third drains to Lake Erie.

No matter where the waters flow, conserving

the natural areas surrounding the water helps provide good habitat to encourage the fish to make it their home. Keeping pollutants out of the water is another way to help maintain a healthy stream.



Within the state of Ohio, the easiest way to support stream conservation is to buy a fishing license (required for anyone 16 years or older) or

a Legacy Stamp. Proceeds help fund fish conservation, habitat restoration, research, and education.



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Fishy Activities and Crafts

Cupcake Liner Fish

Using 3-4 cupcake liners (regular or mini sized), a glue stick, varying colors of paper triangles and some googly eyes, create the body and tail of the fish on blue card stock. You can add waves or bubbles to the fish habitat.



Marbled Fish Craft



Spray shaving cream into a pan large enough to fit paper. Have the kids add drops of food coloring or liquid watercolor onto shaving cream. Use toothpicks to swirl the color lightly. Draw a fish outline on cardstock and have the kids press the paper onto the top of the shaving cream. Use a squeegee to remove the extra shaving cream and let dry. If more color is desired, press the paper again into the shaving cream and squeegee again. Cut out the fish and give it an eye with a sequin or googly eye.

Goldfish Graphing

Using colored goldfish, give each child a small cup full and have them graph the fish by colors before eating them as a snack. Pairs great with the Dr. Seuss classic One fish, two fish red fish, blue fish! This link has a printable graph chart:

<http://www.oopseydaisyblog.com/2011/03/dr-seuss-playdate-download.html>



Bubble Wrap Fish Prints

Cut fish shapes out of bubble wrap and have the kids paint the bubble wrap. They can then flip the painted fish onto blue or white paper and press down. Complete the print with a fin cut out of foil and a googly eye. They can also decorate their bubble wrap fish after the paint dries — 2 crafts in one!



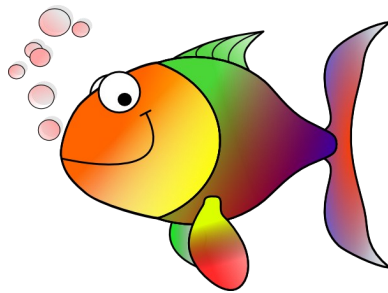
Activities for Further Learning and Fun

Fish Songs and Poems

My Fishy Song by chicky-ma-ma
Sung to "The More We Get Together"
If I could be a fishy,
A fishy, A fishy
If I could be a fishy
What kind would I be?
A swordfish, a guppy,
A goldfish, a molly,
If I could be a fishy,
I would be a (child fills in the blank)

Five Little Fishes

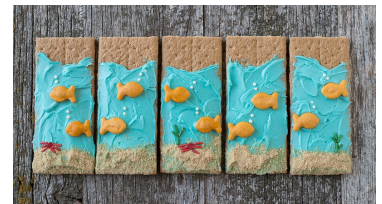
(finger play)
Five little fishes swimming
in a pool,
This one said, "The pool is cool."
This one said, "The pool is deep."
This one said, "I'd like to sleep."
This one said, "I'll float and dip."
This one said, "I see a ship."
The fishing boat comes. The line goes splash. All the little fishes swim away in a flash!



Fishy Snacks

Under the Sea Crackers

Using Graham crackers, Graham cracker crumbs, in bowl, Gold fish crackers, White ball sprinkles, Green and red long sprinkles, or jimmies and blue frosting you can create your own under the sea snack!



Fishy Sandwiches



Using whatever bread filling you choose, cut the sandwich to look like fish and use a chocolate chip or a blueberry for the eyes. You can cut some celery with a point at one end to be water plants.

Orange Fishy

Peel a clementine and spread it out to look like the body, fins and tail of a fish, use a sliced grape for the eyes and blueberries for the bubbles.

