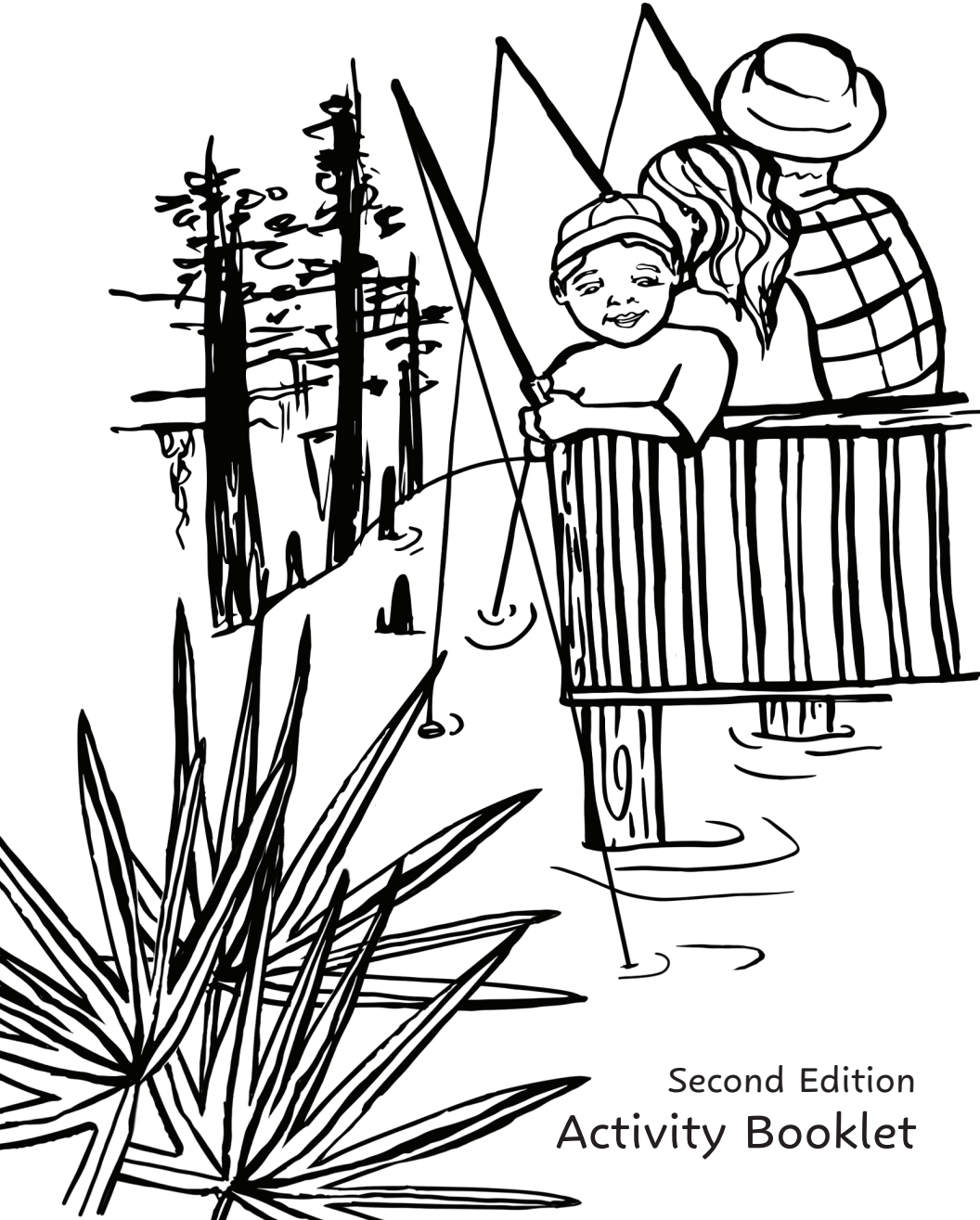


# First Time Fishing in the Atchafalaya Basin



Second Edition  
Activity Booklet

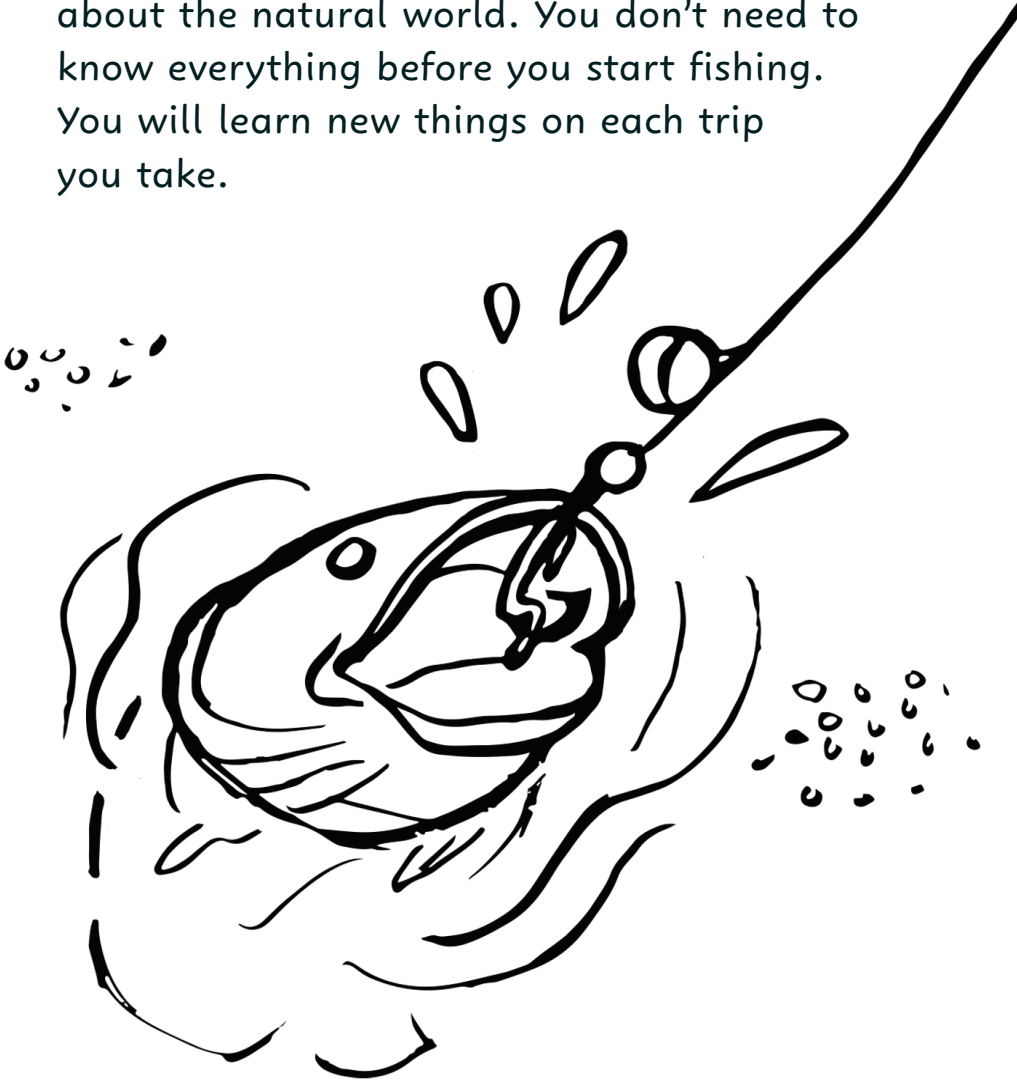
# Note to Educators

Content in this booklet supports the following Louisiana science and geography elementary education standards:

- Plants, animals, and their surroundings make up an ecosystem. (K-ES)
- There is a relationship between the needs of living things and the places they live. (K-LS)
- Many kinds of organisms live in any area. (2-LS)
- Living things, including humans, need resources in order to live and grow. (K-ES)
- Regions in Louisiana are unique in many ways. (3.4.1)



Fishing is easy to learn and a fun way to spend time with family and friends. It gives you an opportunity to explore and learn about the natural world. You don't need to know everything before you start fishing. You will learn new things on each trip you take.



Come along and learn as Emma and her dad take Michael on his first fishing trip.

Daddy and I are taking Michael on his first fishing trip to the Atchafalaya Basin. The Atchafalaya Basin is home to many beautiful plants and animals and is a good place to fish.



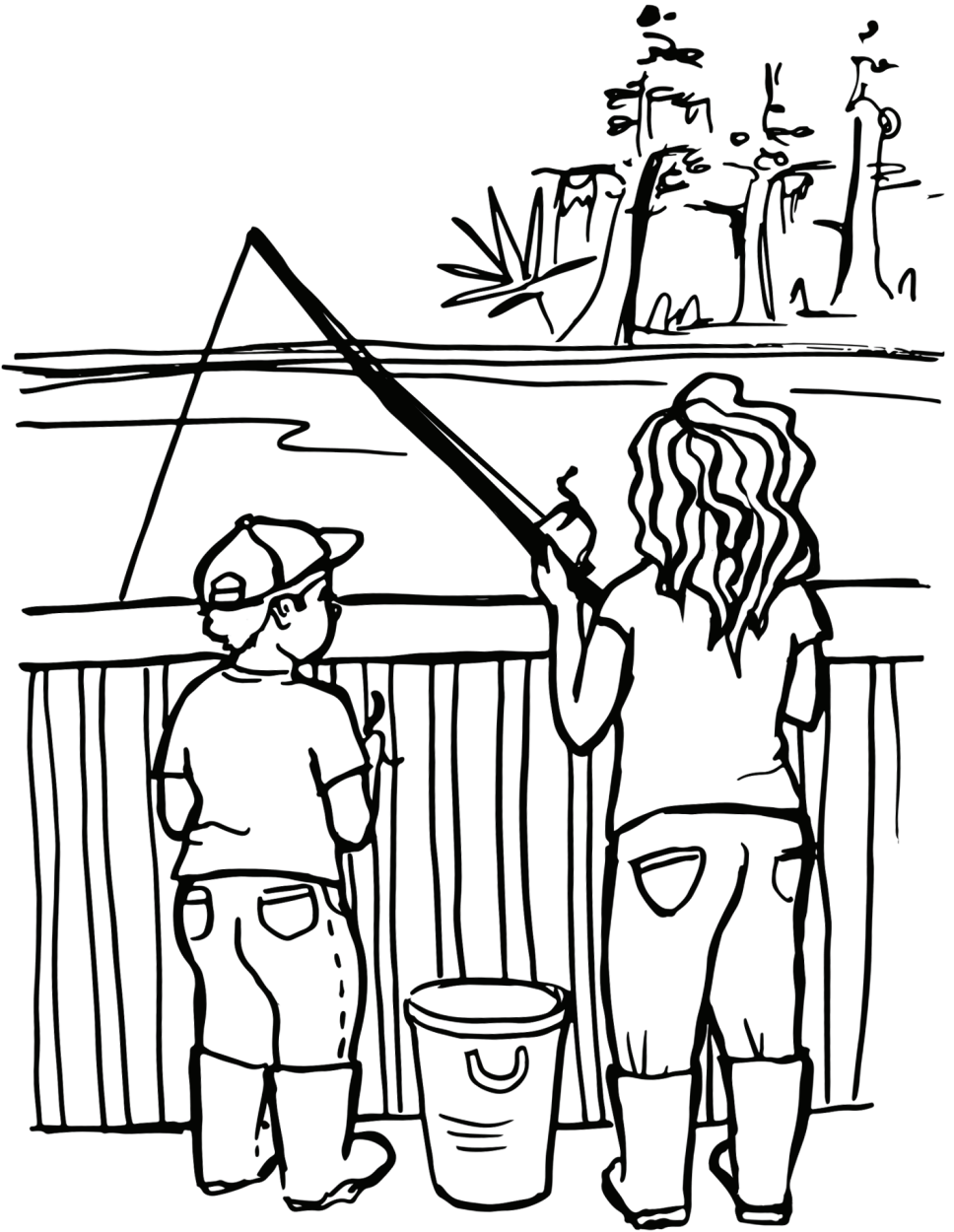
Our fishing spot is perfect. We are at the Big Alabama public fishing pier in the Atchafalaya Basin.



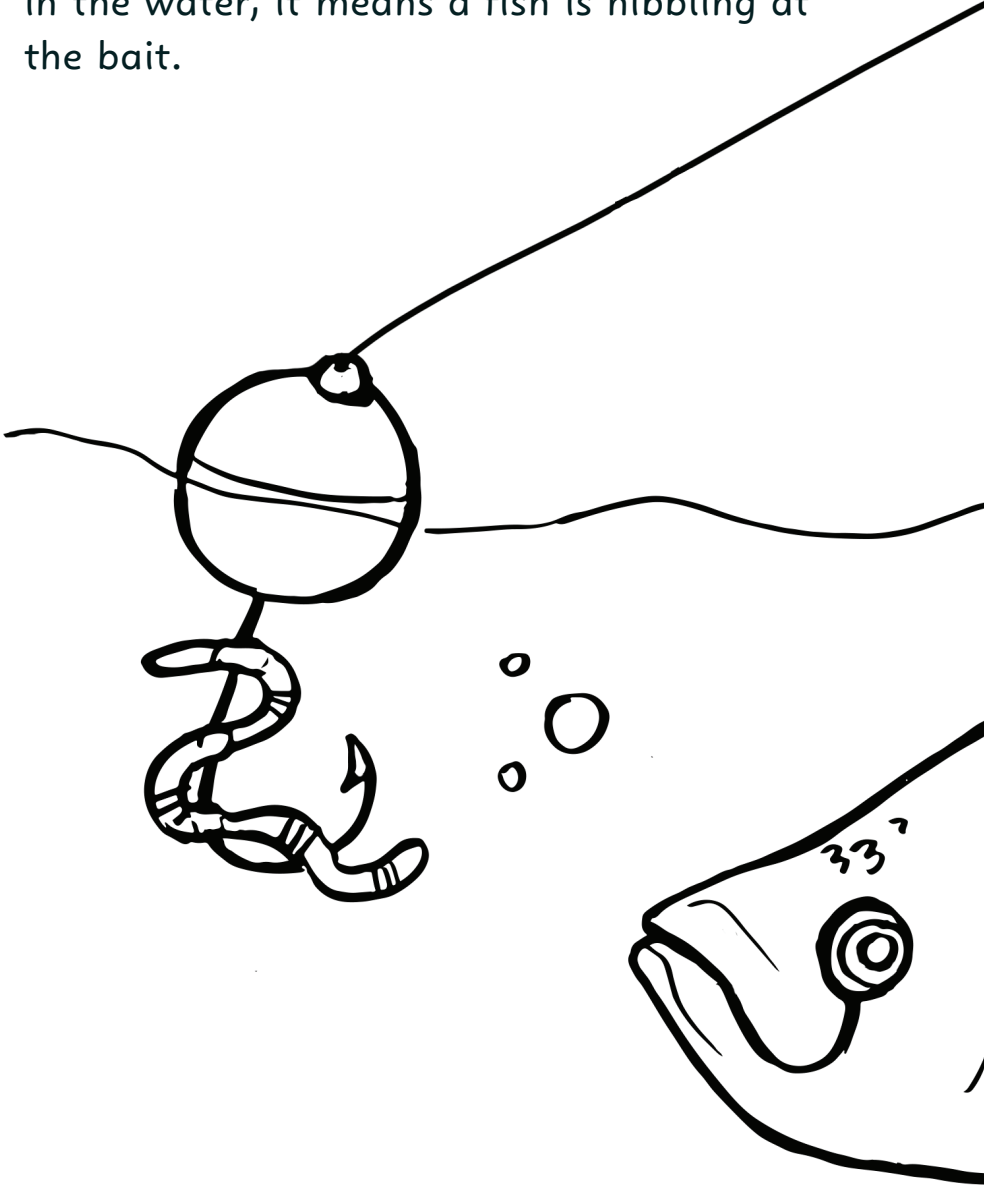
Daddy shows Michael how to bait a hook.



I show Michael how to cast a line.



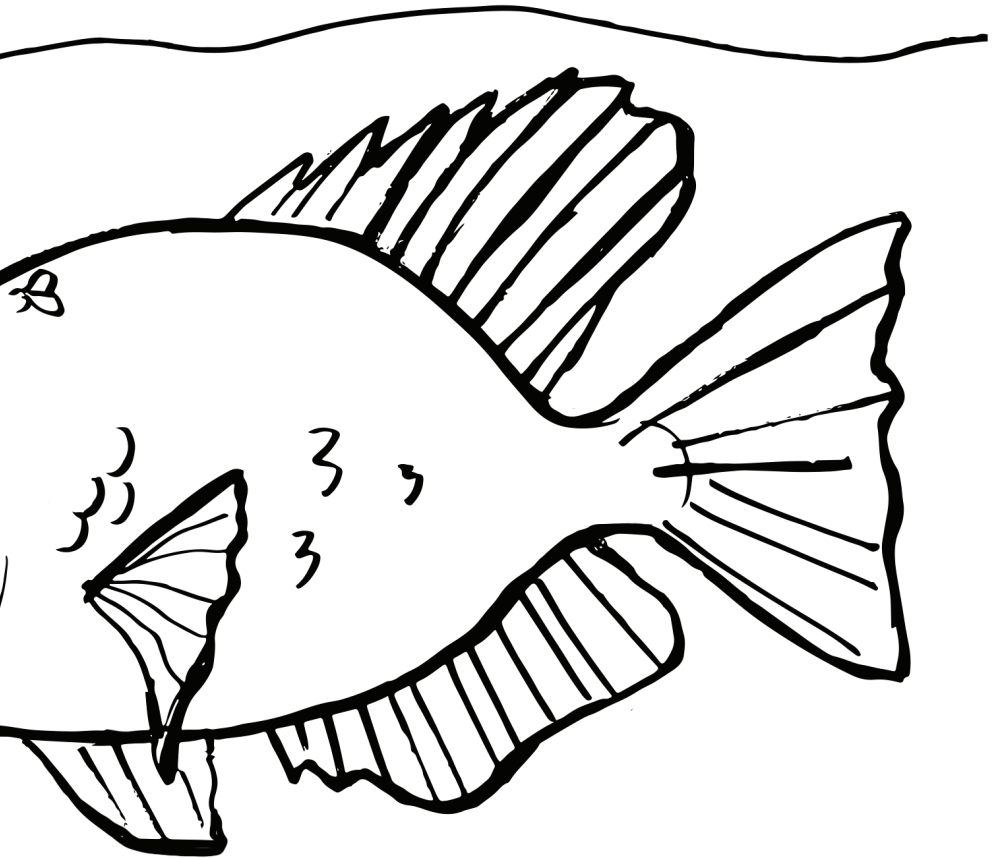
Daddy tells Michael to watch his fishing bobber. If the bobber pops up and down in the water, it means a fish is nibbling at the bait.





If the bobber goes down and stays underwater it means a fish is hooked and it's time to "reel in" the catch.

We have fun watching wildlife while waiting for the fish to bite.



Michael catches the first fish.  
It is small so we let it go.



Michael and I are hungry so we stop to eat a snack. We watch a Great Blue Heron eat a snack, too.



We see a big snake on a log. Michael wonders if the snake is hungry. Daddy says it is best to leave snakes alone. Snakes eat things like lizards, frogs, fish, and bugs. Daddy says the fish are hungry and would like some of our worms.



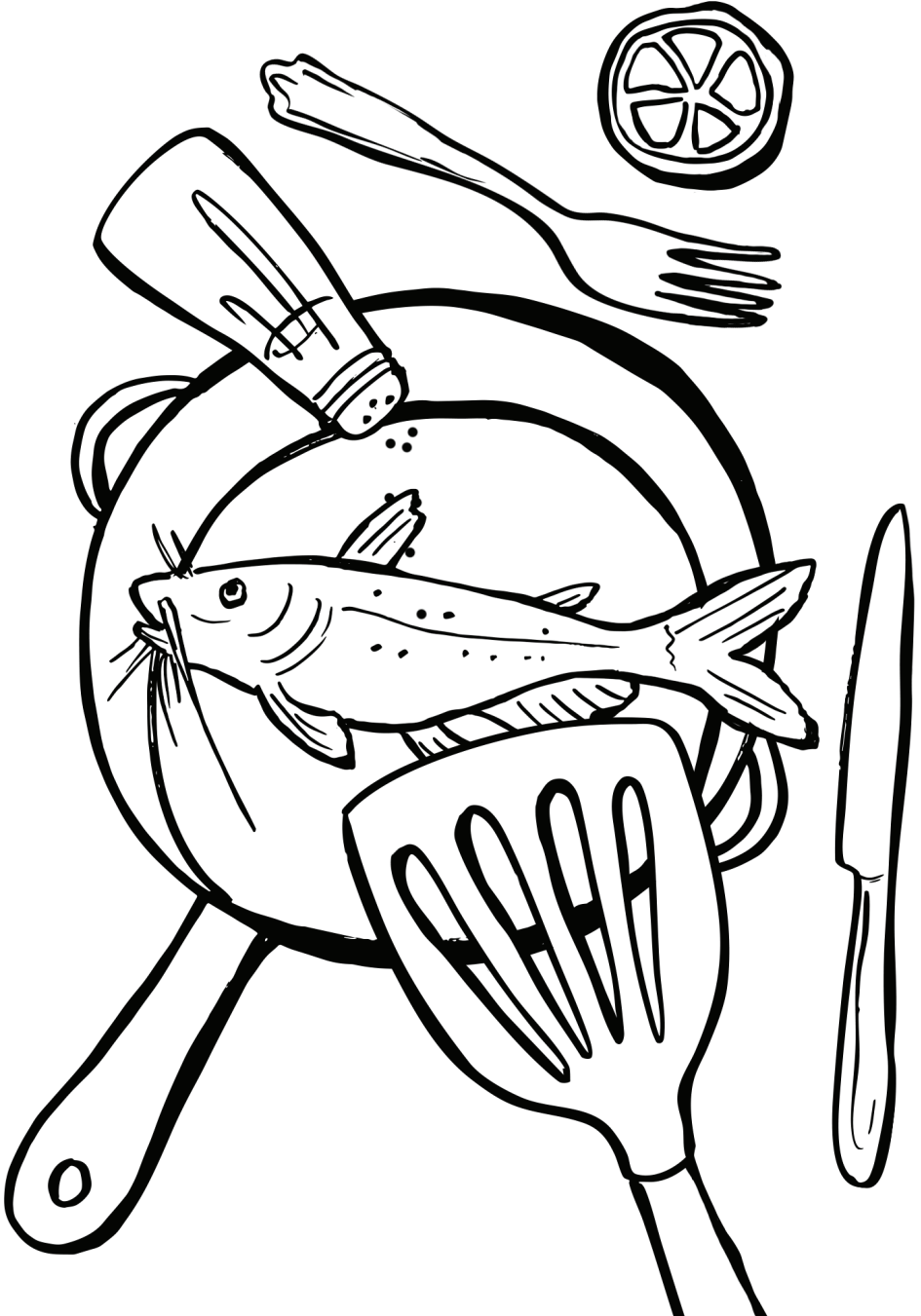
My bobber dives underwater and my fishing pole bends. Michael helps me reel in the line.



Michael and I catch a big catfish.  
Daddy says it is big enough to keep!



We catch more big fish. Daddy says he will cook our fish for supper.



On the way home, Michael and I talk about our fun time fishing and the big fish dinner Daddy is cooking tonight.

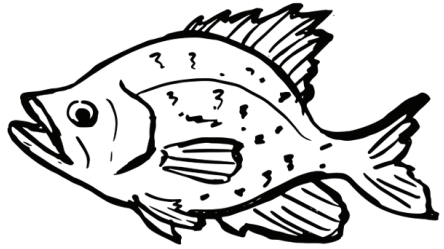




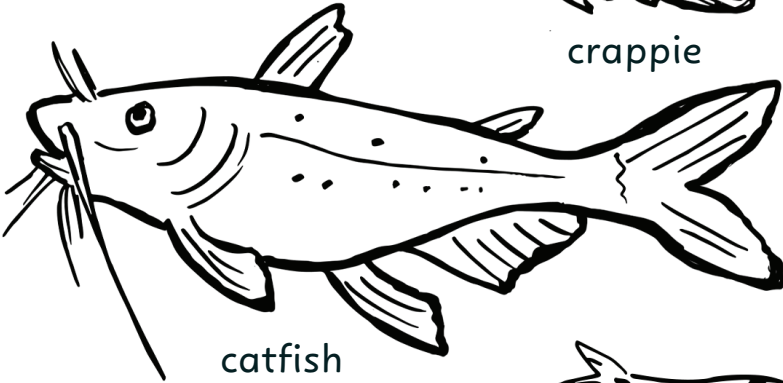
Many kinds of fish live in the Atchafalaya Basin.  
Circle the ones you would like to catch.



bream



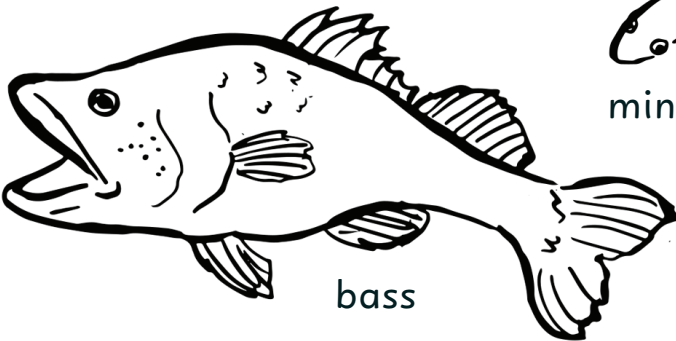
crappie



catfish



minnows

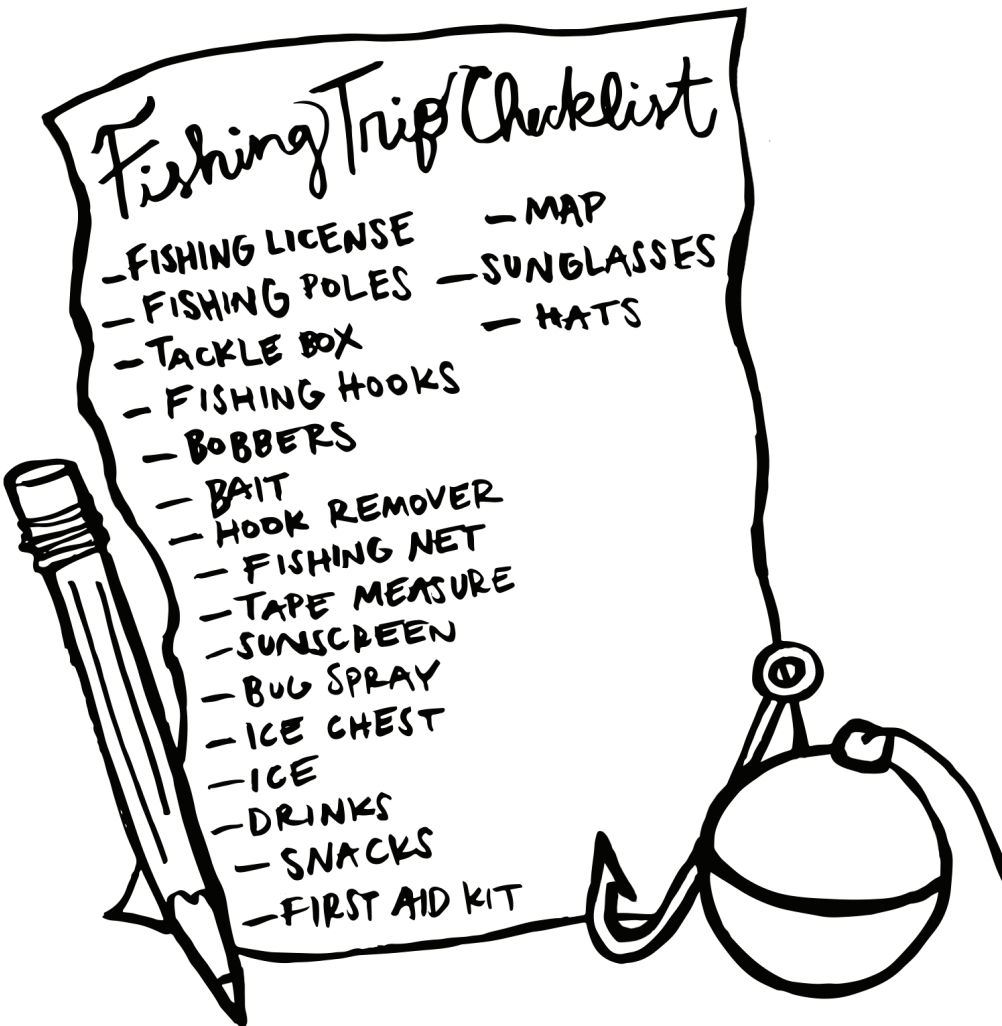


bass



garfish

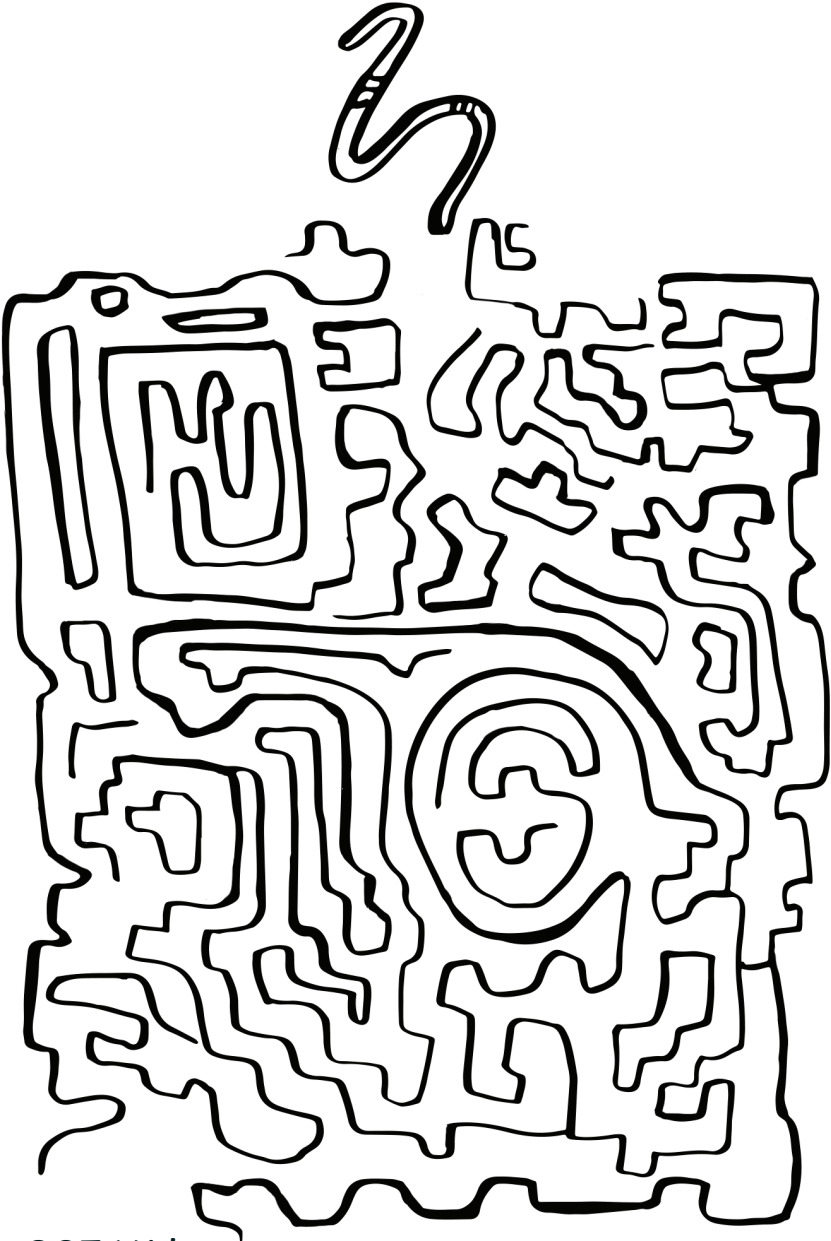
Help Michael and me pack for the fishing trip by finding the words hidden in the puzzle:



How many items from the list can you find and circle?

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

Worms make good fishing bait!  
Help catch a worm by completing this maze.



GOT YA!

## My Fishing Log

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I was fishing at: \_\_\_\_\_

I was fishing with: \_\_\_\_\_

I caught: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I was fishing at: \_\_\_\_\_

I was fishing with: \_\_\_\_\_

I caught: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I was fishing at: \_\_\_\_\_

I was fishing with: \_\_\_\_\_

I caught: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

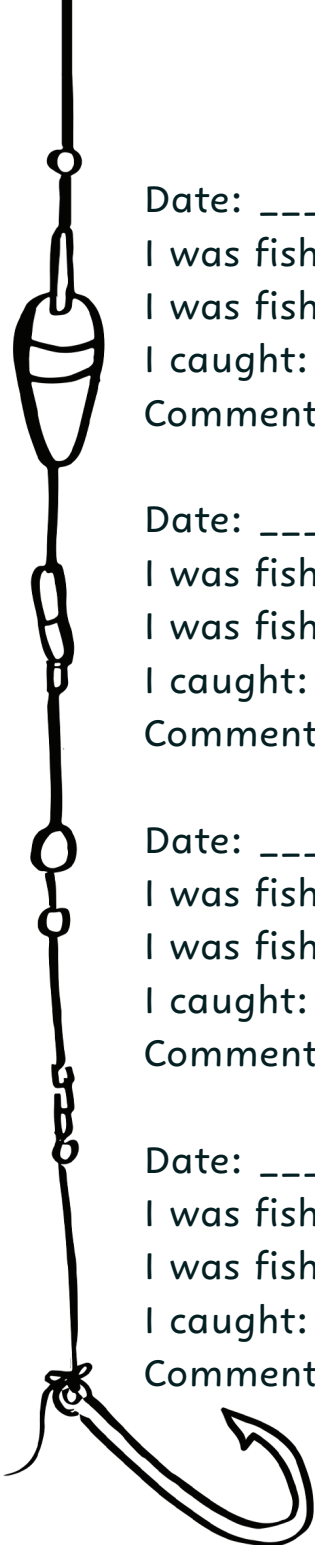
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I was fishing at: \_\_\_\_\_

I was fishing with: \_\_\_\_\_

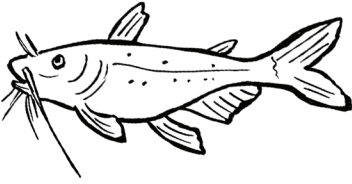
I caught: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

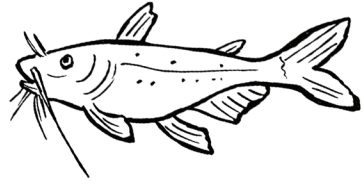


## **How to Play Geaux Fish (2 Players)**

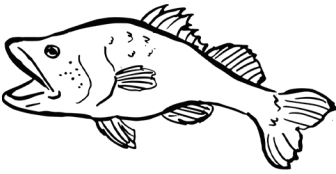
1. Cut out the fish cards. Mix up the cards and give three to each player. Don't let the other player see your cards.
2. Put the rest of the cards in a pile between both players. The bobber pictures should face up and the fish pictures should face down.
3. Take turns asking each other for a match to one of your cards. If you get a match, you get to keep the pair. Put the pairs that you win in a pile separated from your other cards.
4. If the other player does not have a matching card, they say, "Geaux Fish!" and you choose a card from the middle pile.
5. The player with more pairs at the end wins!



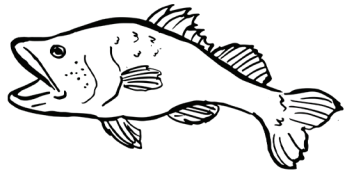
catfish



catfish



bass



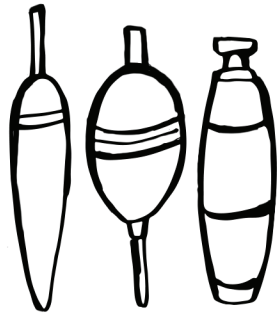
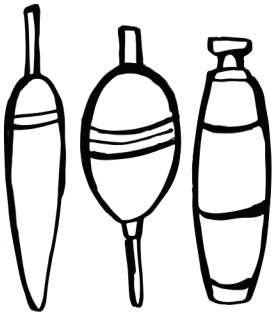
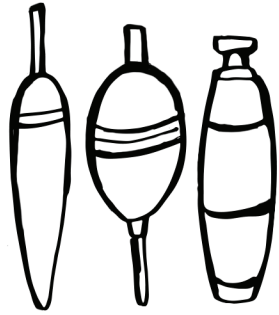
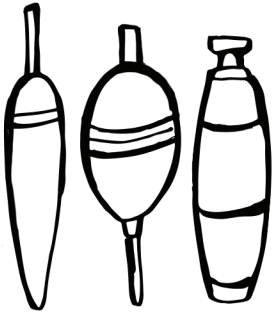
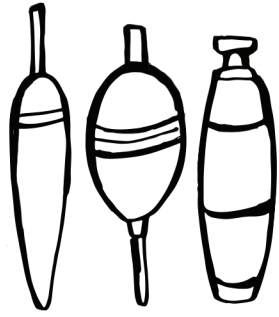
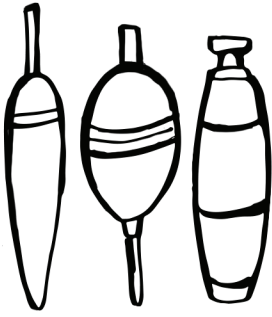
bass



garfish



garfish







bream



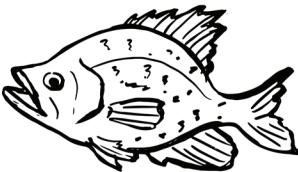
bream



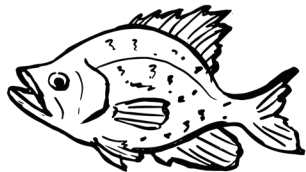
minnows



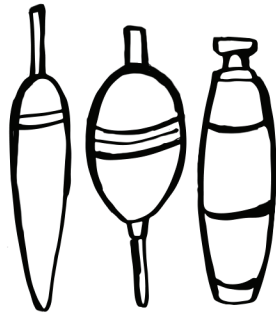
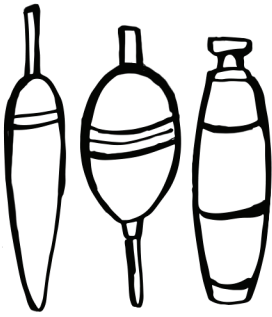
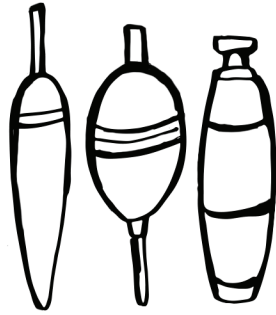
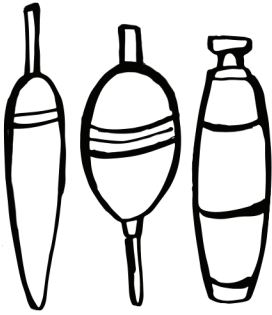
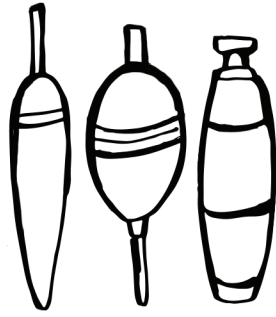
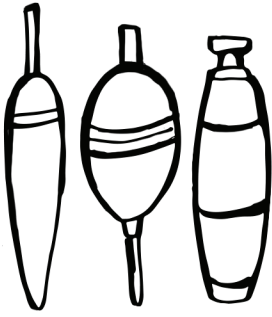
minnows



crappie



crappie



## **"Kid Friendly" Atchafalaya Basin Public (Free) Fishing**

### **Pier Fishing | Big Alabama Public Fishing Pier**

**1132 Sherburne Road, Lottie, LA 70756**

Managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries located in the Sherburne Wildlife Management Area. From Hwy 190 take the Hwy 975 exit at the foot of the Atchafalaya River Bridge on the east side. Travel south on Hwy 975 following the Morganza Spillway protection levee for 3.0 miles. Turn left at the Big Alabama boat launch sign and the pier will be on your right. Site has a small covered seating area with a fish cleaning station, clean restroom facilities, an expansive fishing pier, and free boat launch.

### **Bank Fishing | Courtableau Bayou Control Structure**

Located along the banks of Courtableau Bayou and maintained by the US Army Corps of Engineers, the area is popular for white crappie (sac au lait) fishing. Take Hwy 190 six miles west of Krotz Springs or 12 miles east from Opelousas to Spillway Road. Look for brown signs on the south side of the highway. One sign reads "Courtableau Drainage Structure" and the other says "West Atchafalaya Protection Levee." Travel south on Spillway Road for 1 mile to the Courtableau Control Structure on the left. Shade trees and a free boat launch make this a nice spot for young fishers.

### **Pier & Bank Fishing | Attakapas Landing**

**1800 LA-401, Napoleonville, LA 70390**

Managed by the Assumption Parish Police Jury. From I-10, take LA-22 Exit South .4 miles. Take 2nd exit from Roundabout to LA Hwy 70 W for 9.5 Miles. Keep Left to stay on LA-70 West at LA 3089 for 6.7 miles. Turn left onto LA 70 Spur and go 1.6 miles. Turn left onto LA-1 S for 4.2 miles. Turn right onto LA-401 S/Canal Road for 9.4 miles, ending at Attakapas Landing. There are pavilions, restrooms, and docks at this upgraded public launch.

A current fishing license is required for anyone 18 years and older to fish in Louisiana. Visit [www.wlf.louisiana.gov](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov) for information about fishing.

# First Time Fishing in the Atchafalaya Basin

## Second Edition



Produced by Louisiana Wildlife Federation  
LaWildlifeFed.org

Written by: Dottie Hartman

Illustrated & Designed by: Anna W. Schnitzler

Edited by: Jimmy Frederick, LWF

This booklet is made possible with support from:  
Atchafalaya National Heritage Area



To learn more about the Atchafalaya Basin and other  
natural resources in Louisiana visit: [atchafalaya.org](https://atchafalaya.org)

***Dedicated in memory of Marian Plant Petry***

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