

# First Time Fishing in the Atchafalaya Basin



Coloring & Activity Booklet  
Louisiana Wildlife Federation

## Note to educators

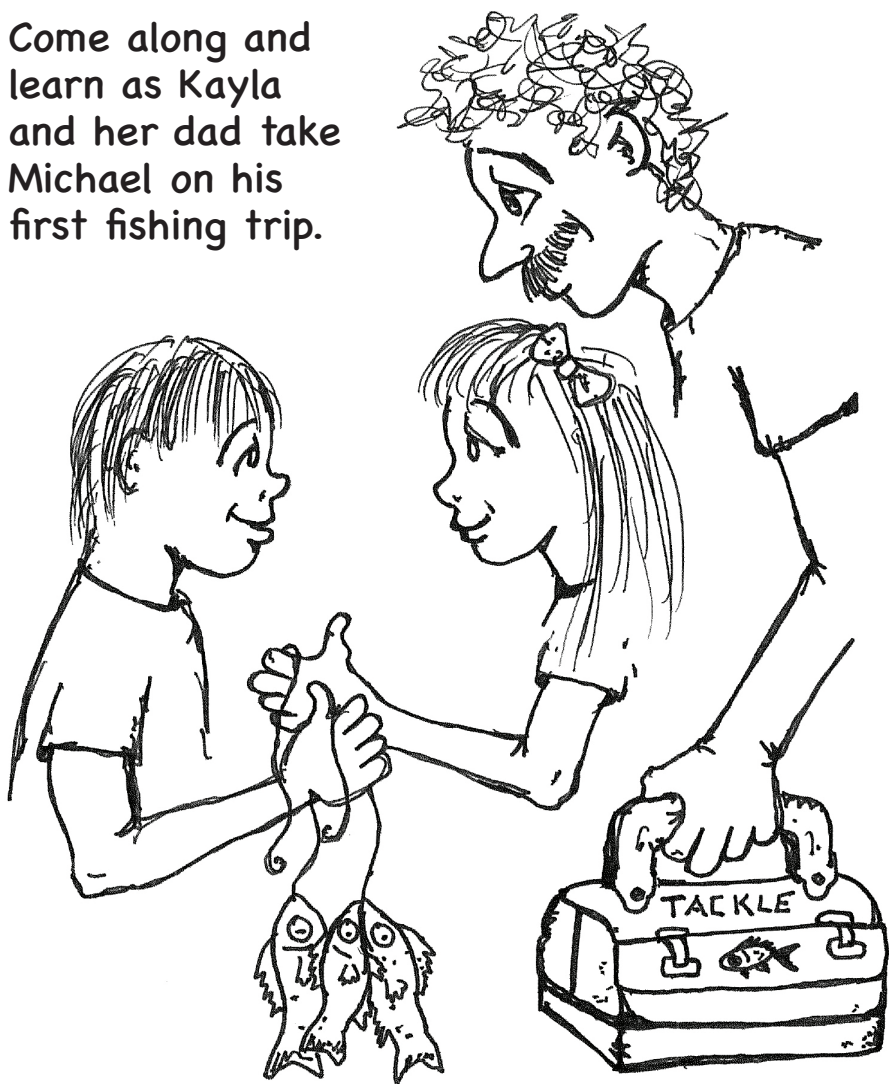
This booklet contains material which correlates with the following Louisiana Elementary Science and Geography Education Standards:

- Describe the use and importance of natural resources.
- Describe the physical characteristics of bodies of water.
- Recognize there is great diversity among organisms.
- Give examples of different kinds of animals.
- Examine the habitats of plants and animals.



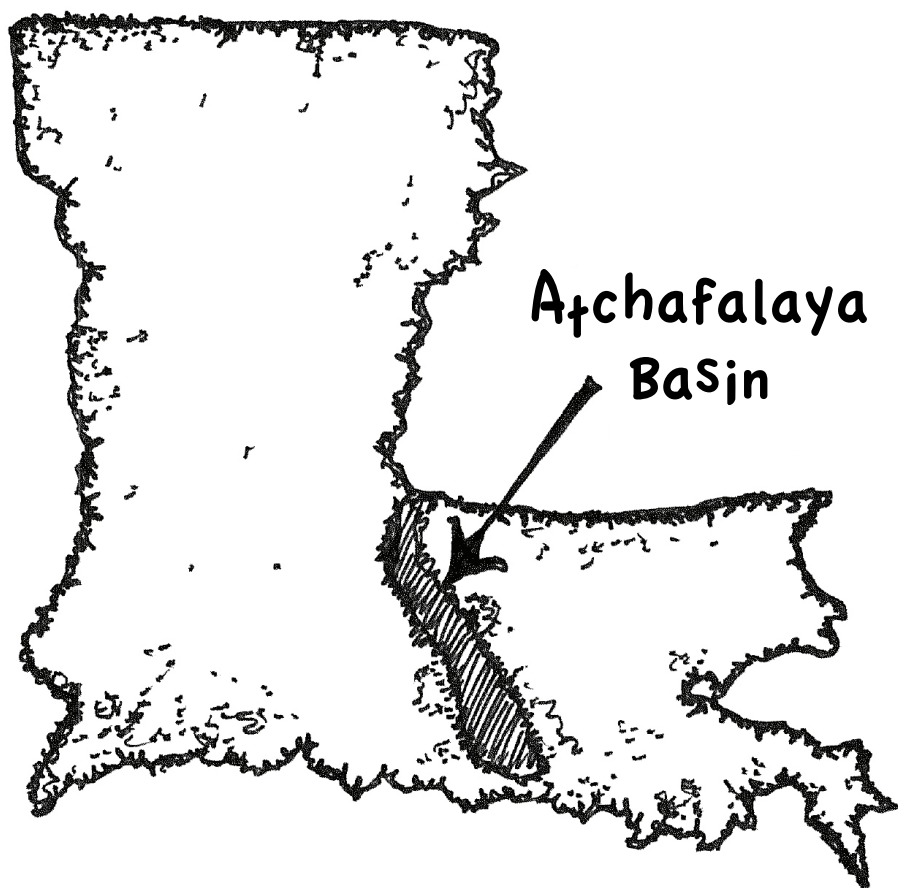
Fishing is easy to learn and a fun way to spend time with family and friends. It gives you an opportunity to explore and learn about the natural world. You don't need to know everything before you start fishing. You will learn new things on each trip you take.

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



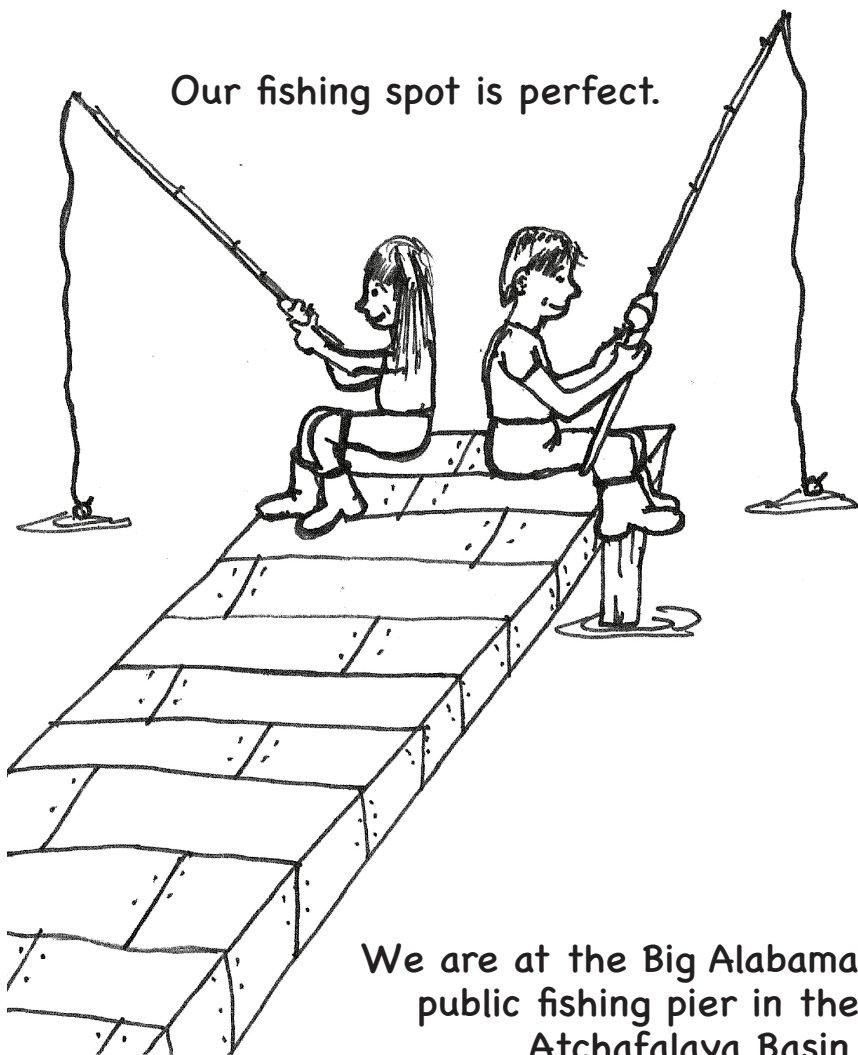
Daddy and I are taking Michael  
on his first fishing trip to the  
Atchafalaya Basin.

The Atchafalaya Basin is home to  
many beautiful plants and animals  
and is a good place to fish.





Our fishing spot is perfect.

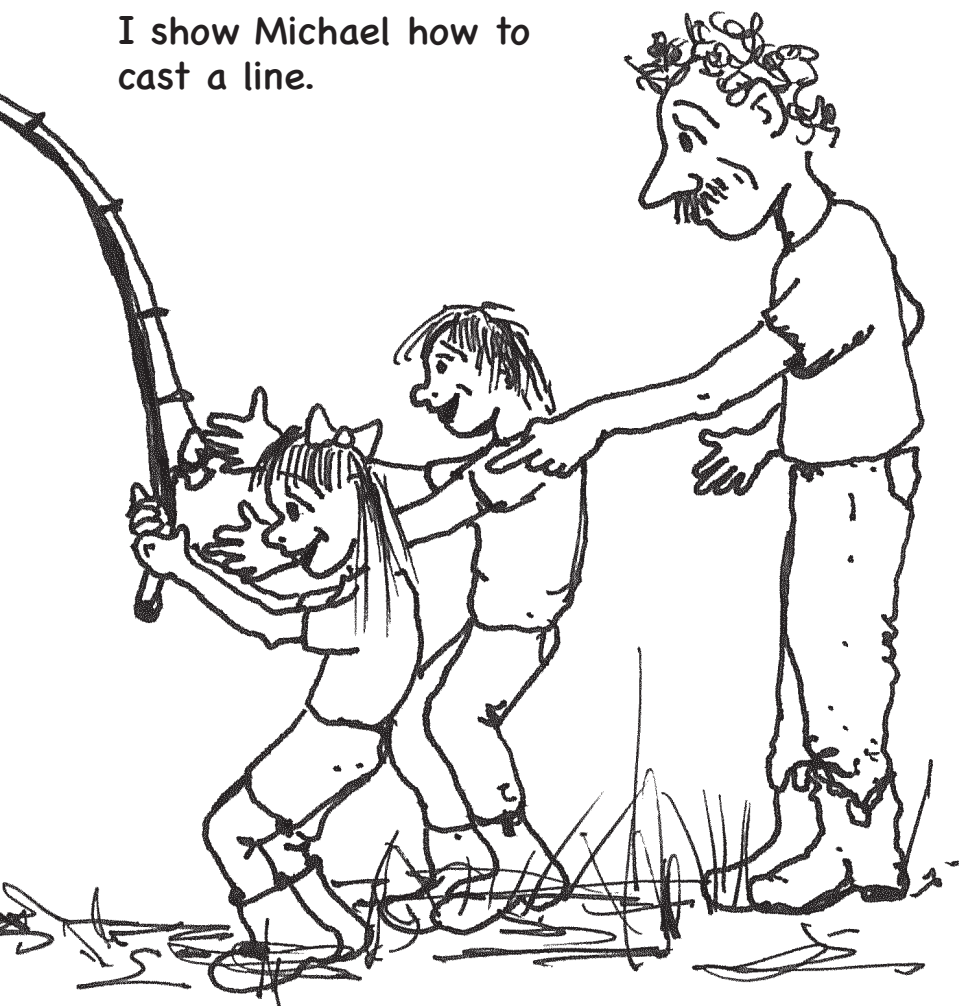


We are at the Big Alabama  
public fishing pier in the  
Atchafalaya Basin.

Daddy shows Michael  
how to bait a hook.



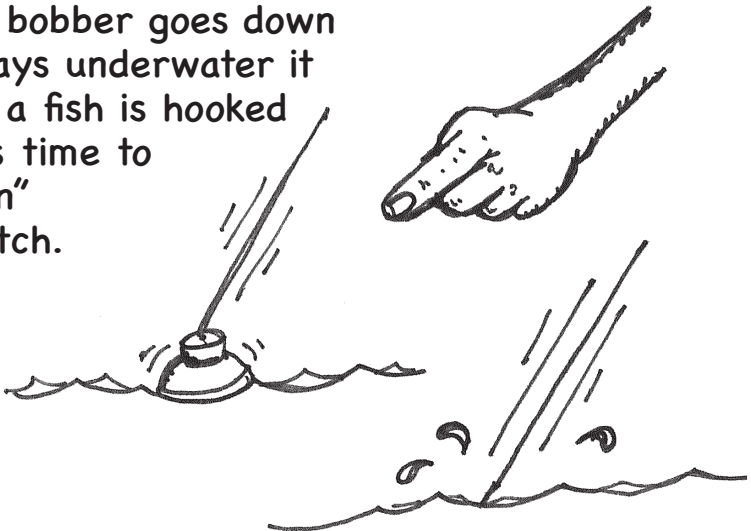
I show Michael how to  
cast a line.



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.



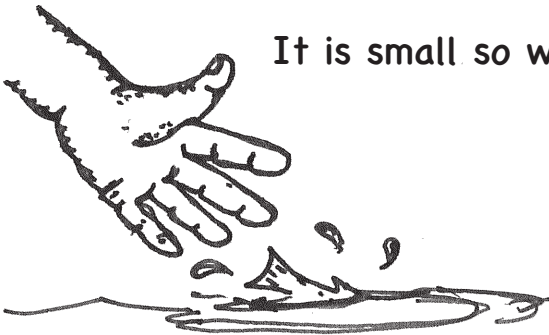


We have fun watching wildlife while waiting for the fish to bite.

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.



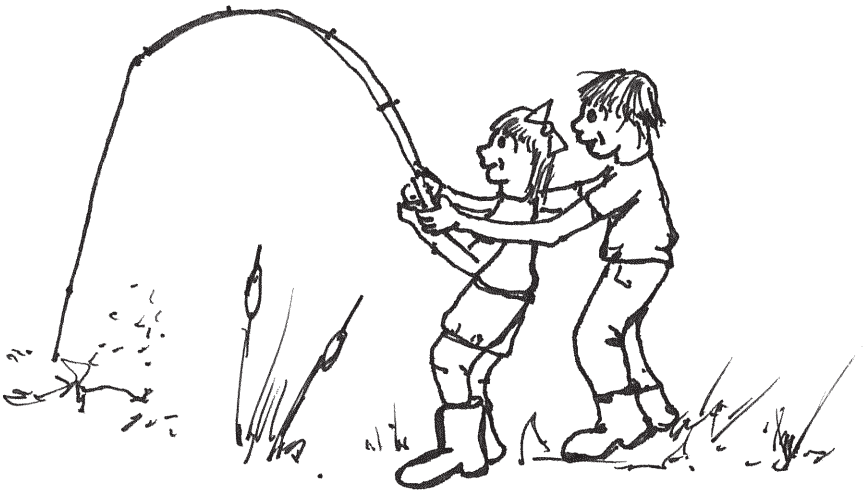
We see a big snake on a log.  
Michael wonders if the snake is hungry.  
Daddy says it is best to leave snakes  
alone. Snakes eat things like lizards,  
frogs, fish, and bugs.



Daddy says the fish are  
hungry and would like some of  
our worms.

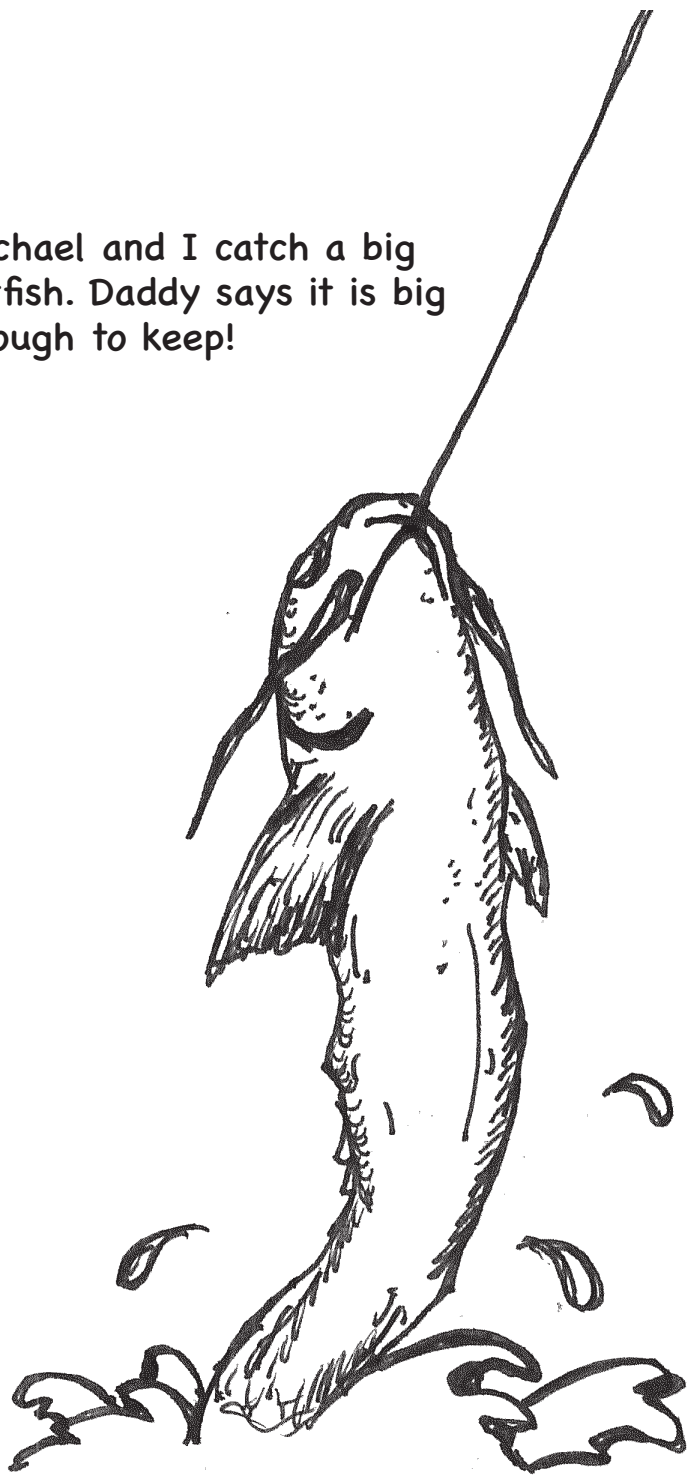


My bobber dives underwater  
and my fishing pole bends.

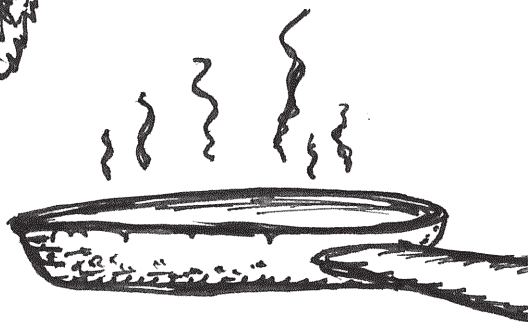
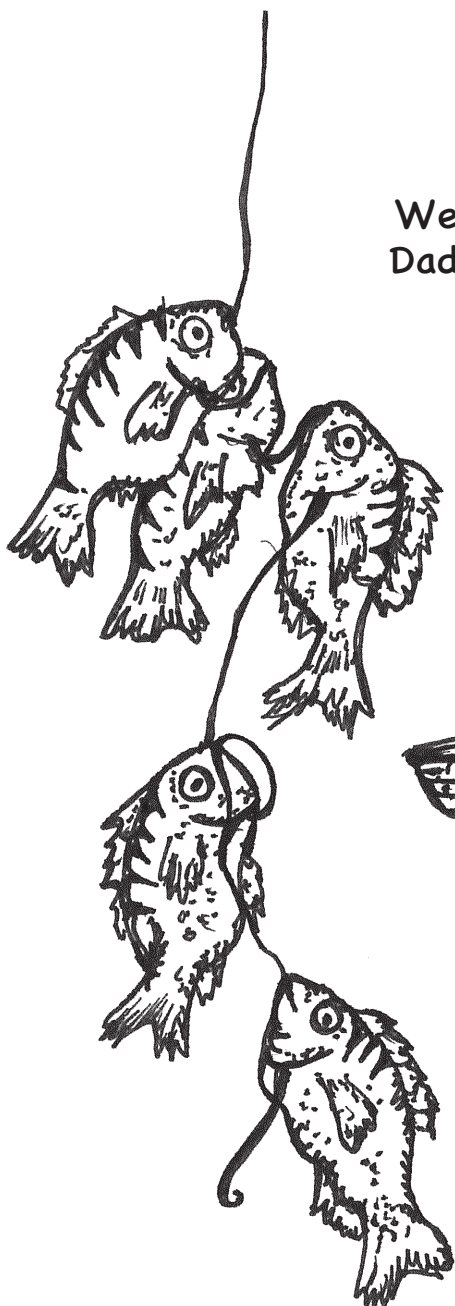


Michael helps me reel in the line.

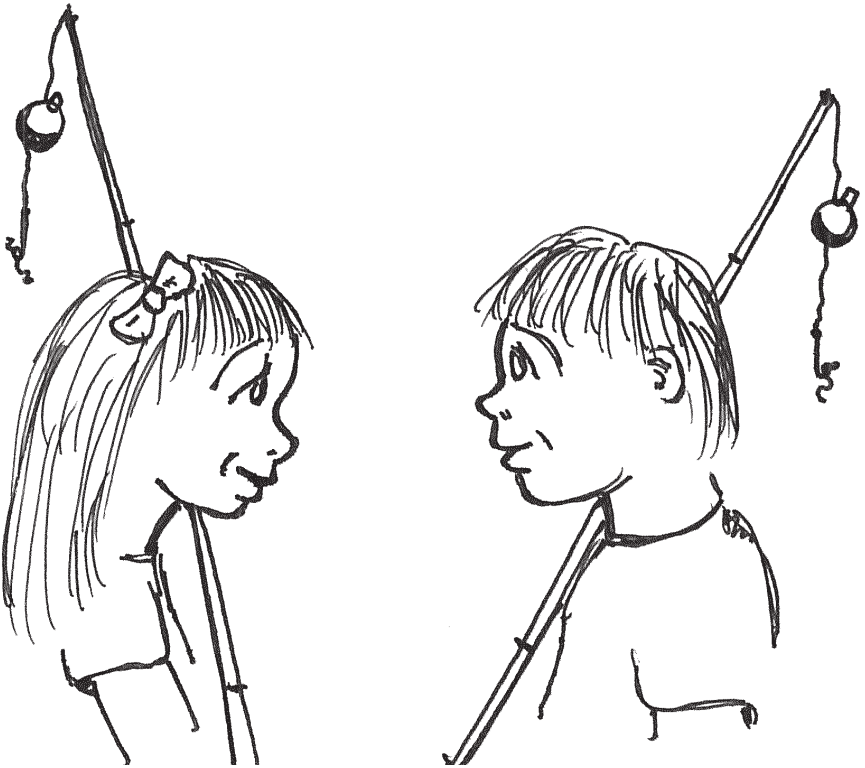
Michael and I catch a big  
catfish. Daddy says it is big  
enough to keep!

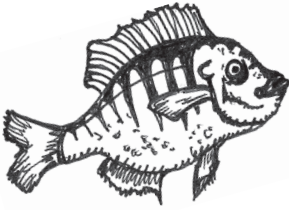


We catch more big fish.  
Daddy says he will cook  
our fish for supper.

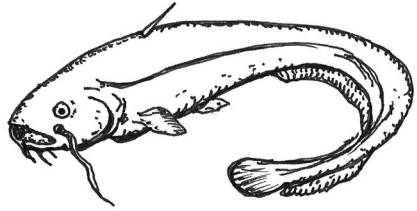


On the way home, Michael and I talk about our fun time fishing and the big fish dinner Daddy is cooking tonight.

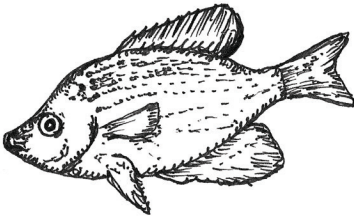




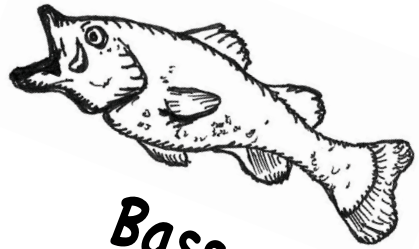
**Bream**



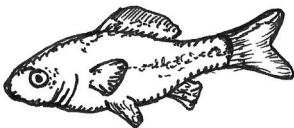
**Catfish**



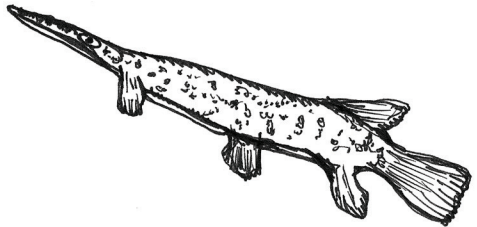
**Crappie**



**Bass**



**Minnow**



**Garfish**

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

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

## Fishing Trip Checklist

Fishing license Sunscreen

Fishing poles Bug Spray

Tackle box Ice chest

Fishing hooks Ice

Bobbers Drinks

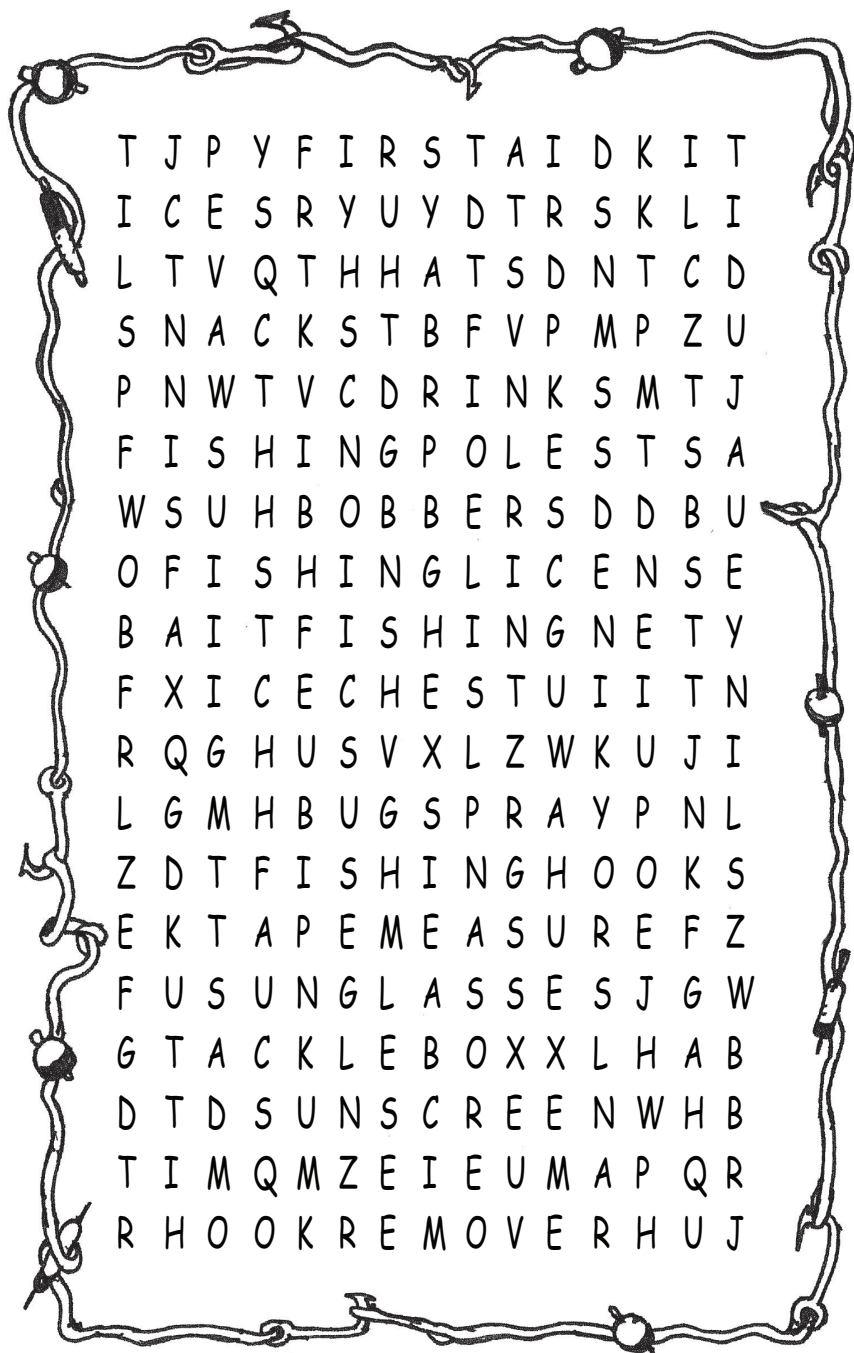
Bait Snacks

Hats First aid kit

Map

Fishing net Sunglasses

Tape Measure Hook remover

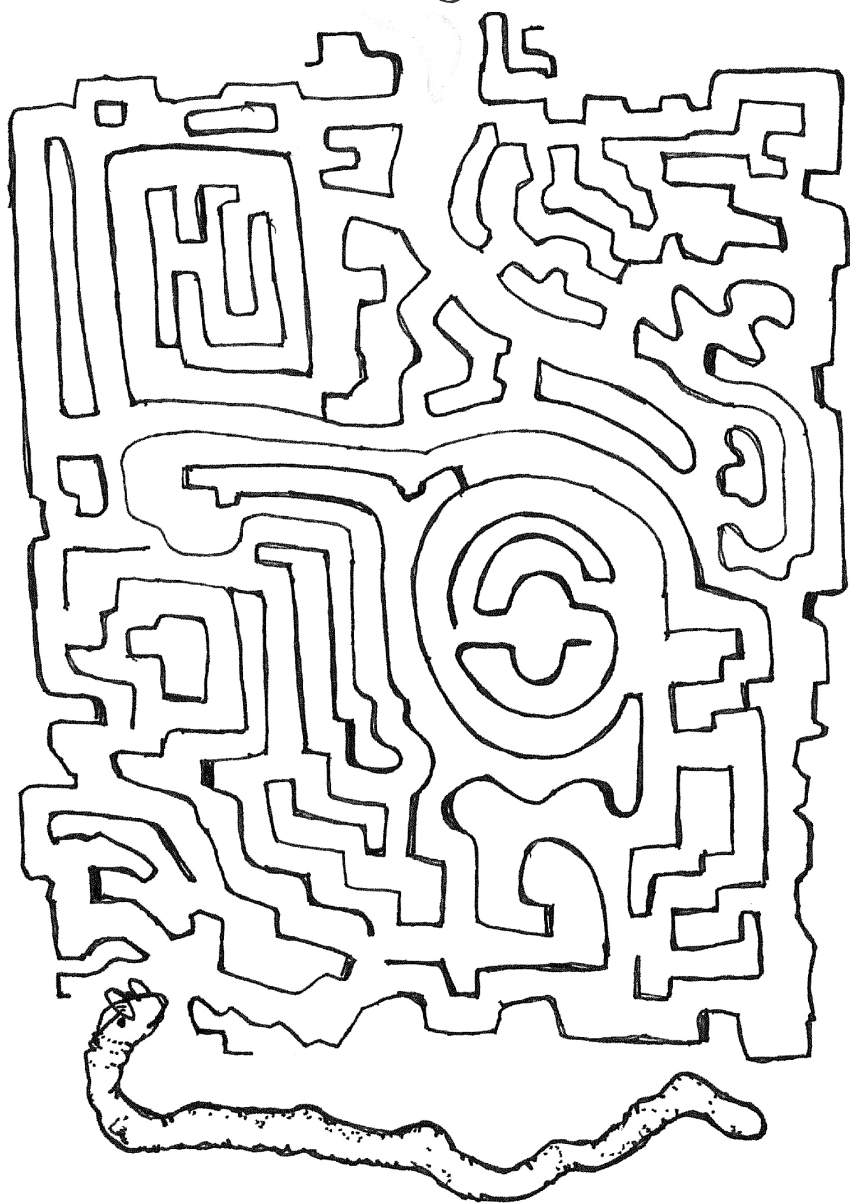


How many items from the list can you find?

Worms make  
good fishing bait!



Help catch  
a worm  
by completing  
this maze.





# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

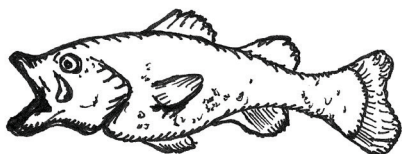
Comments \_\_\_\_\_



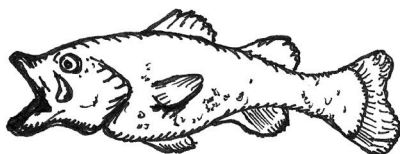
## "GEAUX FISH" GAME

### HOW TO PLAY "GEAUX FISH" (FOR 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!



**Bass**



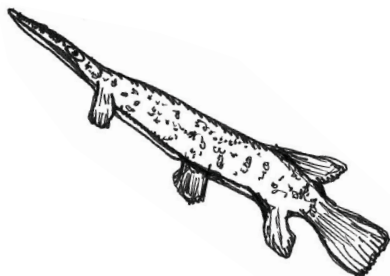
**Bass**



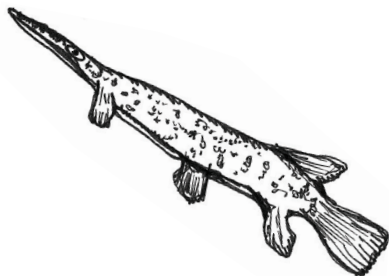
**Catfish**



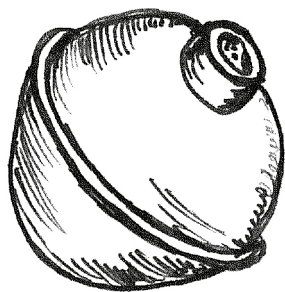
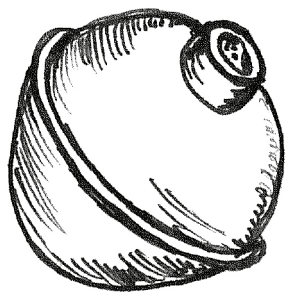
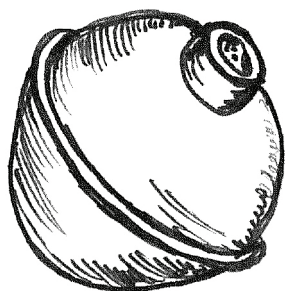
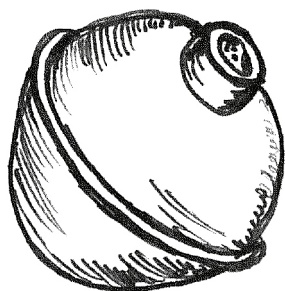
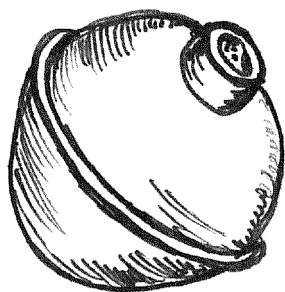
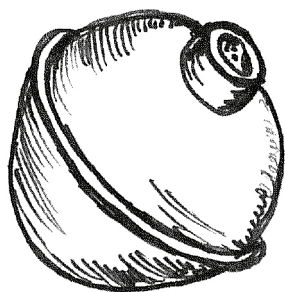
**Catfish**

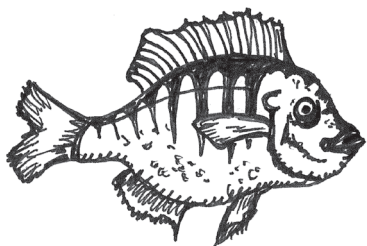


**Garfish**

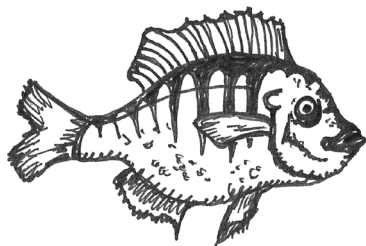


**Garfish**

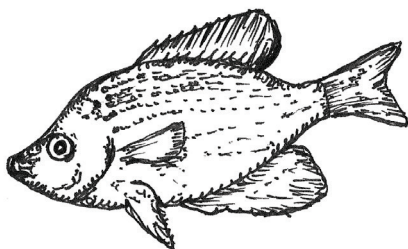




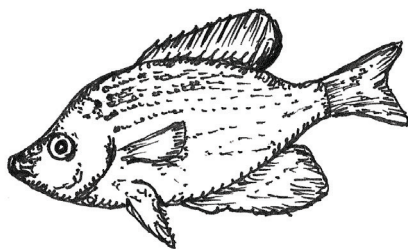
**Bream**



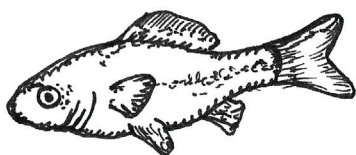
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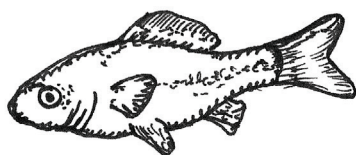
**Crappie**



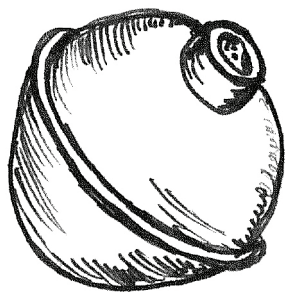
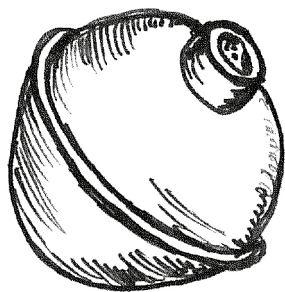
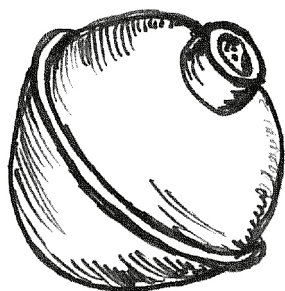
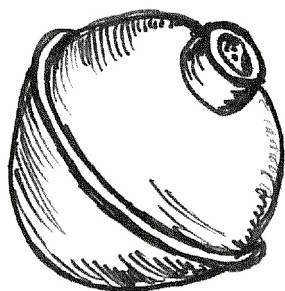
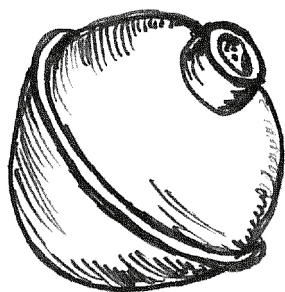
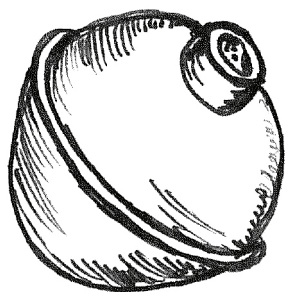
**Crappie**



**Minnow**



**Minnow**



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

### **(Pier Fishing) Big Alabama Public Fishing Pier**

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.

**[www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wma/2763](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wma/2763)**

### **(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.

**[www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/AtchafalayaBasin.aspx](http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/AtchafalayaBasin.aspx)**

### **(Bank Fishing) Indian Bayou's West Side**

Managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Access I-10 Exit 115 at Henderson, LA. Travel north on LA Hwy 347 for 1 mile. Turn right on LA Hwy 678 and continue 0.9 miles. LA Hwy 678 makes a hard left turn. Make this left turn and continue on LA Hwy 678 for another 1.3 miles. Again LA Hwy 678 makes a hard left turn, but continue straight this time on Potato Shed Road. Continue on Potato Shed Road for 0.9 mile, turn left at the levee, and drive north 1.6 miles. West Side Parking area will be on your left. Park benches, shade trees, and a well maintained bank area make this a great spot.

**[www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/AtchafalayaBasin.aspx](http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/AtchafalayaBasin.aspx)**

A current fishing license is required for anyone 16 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

This booklet is made possible with support from:  
Shell Oil Company



Produced by Louisiana Wildlife Federation  
[www.LaWildlifeFed.org](http://www.LaWildlifeFed.org)

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**Atchafalaya**  
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA  
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