

# Rigging a Fishing Pole

**Background information:** Review Chapters 2: *Fishing Equipment*, 3: *Knot tying and Casting*, 4: *Fishing Techniques* and 5: *Fish Identification and Life History* in Going Fishing

**Standards:**

**Duration:** 30-45 minutes

**Materials:**

- Fishing rod and reel
- Hooks
- Weights (split shot)
- Bobber
- Worksheet for each student or student pair
- Pliers
- Line trimmer (nail clipper)
- Knot tying cards

**Objectives:** Student will learn basic methods of rigging a fishing rod and reel with a lure, hook, weight and bobber.

**Warm up:** Ask the student about the species of fish they would desire to catch and their ideas on the types of bait that would be most successful. Examples of species-specific rigging would include a bottom-rig for fishing for catfish, a bobber with a basic-rig for fishing for bluegill, or using a jig for fishing for bass.

**Activity:**

Students can work individually but will benefit from sharing ideas and assisting in pairs.

1. Supply each pair of students with a rod and reel, pliers and line trimmers (may need to share as class), hook, split-shot weigh, sliding weight, jig and bobbers.
2. Prepare the fishing rods/reels by running the line through the eyelets.
3. Suggest to the students that they are fishing for bluegill and catfish and they need to tie the most appropriate rigging for each of these species. Tie these rigs together as a class, or allow the students to independently discover the rigging best suited for each species. (e.g. Bass: homemade lure using Palomar knot, Bluegill: simple rig with bobber using improved clinch knot, Catfish: bottom rig using improved clinch knot).

4. Have the students break-down the fishing equipment for storage.

**Wrap up:**

Kids love to tell stories about their (or their parents) fishing encounters. Allow a few students to tell stories and expand upon their experiences to discover the equipment, riggings, bait and techniques used.