

Ice Fishing Game

Play an ice fishing game and discover some interior Alaska fish!

Materials Needed:

Fish Templates printable (or draw your own), paper clips, large magnet*, wooden dowel or pencil, string, scissors, colored pencils or crayons.

Optional: Large cardboard box.



***Caution: Adult supervision required.** Magnets are hazardous if swallowed. Use a large, low-attraction fridge or donut magnet to do this activity safely with young children. As an alternative to magnets, attach large loops of ribbon to the fish and create a “hook” with a paperclip on the end of the string.

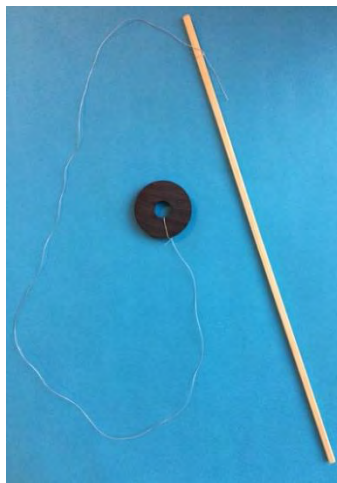
Instructions:

Step 1: Assemble the fish: Cut out the fish templates along the dotted lines. Color each fish. Poke a small hole in each fish’s mouth and insert a paper clip.

Hint: To make the fish sturdier, glue them on cardstock or thin cardboard.

Step 2: Assemble the fishing pole: Tie a piece of string on one end of the wooden dowel or pencil. Tie the magnet to the other end of the string.

Step 3: Arrange the fish on the floor and start fishing! See how many you can catch.



Extension: Cut a hole in the top of a large cardboard box to create an ice fishing hole. Place the fish inside.

Ice Fishing in Alaska

Ice fishing is both a subsistence and recreational activity in Interior Alaska. Ice fishing is possible on rivers and lakes when the ice is thick enough to support the weight of people, cars, and fishing huts. Below are some of the fish that can be caught while ice fishing.



Burbot fishing. Image: Alaska Department of Fish & Game.



Chinook salmon.
Image: Wikimedia Commons.



Burbot. Image: Alaska Department of Fish & Game.



Northern pike. Image: Alaska Department of Fish & Game.



Arctic grayling. Image: Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

Hatchery-raised **Chinook salmon** (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) are stocked in lakes for fishing for the summer and winter seasons. Other stocked fish include coho salmon, arctic char, and rainbow trout.

Burbot (*Lota lota*) are a slow-growing fish and the only freshwater cod in North America. They spawn in the late fall and winter, under the ice.

Northern pike (*Esox lucius*) provide a winter subsistence resource in some areas, such as the Minto Flats. Their preferred habitats are shallow weedy areas. Pike are voracious predators and feed on both birds and fish.

Arctic grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*) have colorful body markings and a sail-like dorsal fin. Arctic grayling are found across Alaska's streams, rivers, and lakes. They can live to be up to 32 years old!

Ice Fishing Templates

Note: Images are not to scale.

