



CLOVERBUDS

Cloverbud Connection: May

Hi Cloverbud!

This month, we'll learn about worms and fishing.

Wisconsin has lots of lakes and rivers where you can fish. Many of them are located in our local area. There are a lot of different kinds of fish. Do you know what kind of fish are in the lakes in the area?

Fishing is a great way to spend time outdoors, enjoy nature, and maybe even catch dinner! Even if you don't like worms, or fishing--there are great experiments, coloring pages, and activities inside.

Sara, Donna, Karrie, & Beth



Winner of the March Drawing is Kimber from Rusk County!

Don't forget to email us what you're working on by the end of each month! We would love to see you in the picture too!

This Month:

- Discovering New Skills
- Worms & Fishing

Reminders:

- Share a picture of your work
- Save whatever activity work you do in your green folder
- Keep projects (poster or mobile) safe and clean if you want to enter it into the County Fair
- Have Fun!



Barron County is the host of the 2025 WI Governor's Fishing Opener and it is being held in Rice Lake this year. Come find the Extension table at the Family Fishing Day Event on May 3rd at Veterans Memorial park from 10AM-2PM.



Being Yourself



Belonging Together



Building Connections



Discovering Skills



Exploring New Opportunities



Giving Back to Your Community



Cloverbud Connection - May 2025

Dear Family

The May Cloverbud Connection Newsletter and Activity Guide is here! Every month, Cloverbuds (kids in kindergarten to second grade) in Barron, Burnett, Rusk, Sawyer, and Washburn Counties can join 4-H projects at home and connect with others. Families can choose how much they want to participate. Throughout the year, there will be opportunities to have a PenPal, connect online, and attend a Cloverbud Day-Camp in August (save the date-August 19).

This month: Cloverbuds will learn about *Discovering Skills* and *Exploring New Opportunities* as they learn through discovery, creating and learning with worms & fishing. We encourage you to help them explore more with the great resources provided on the Wisconsin DNR website:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/anglereducation/TeachingMaterials#FishWildcards>

Cloverbud Record Books

Remember to save your great work in your green folder, let your educator know if you need one. Cloverbud record books vary by county. Please check your county's guidelines for record book completion. Ask your club leader or county educator for more information.

Share photos and feedback, get prizes!

We love to see your work and your smiling face working on your activities. Please share photos with your local educator for a chance to win a 4-H prize!

In Wisconsin 4-H we value:



Being Yourself: Find and share your authentic sparks and interests.



Belonging Together: Recognize, understand, respect, and appreciate each other.



Building Connection: Grow positive relationships with peers and adults.



Discovering Skills: Develop skills through hands-on learning to help you succeed and thrive.



Exploring New Opportunities: Open the door to new experiences, projects, and places.



Giving Back to Your Community: Make meaningful contributions through community service and leadership.

May: Fishing is for everyone!

Check out the DNR Website here for facts about where fish live, what they look like, how to help keep their home clean and much more.

[Department of Natural Resources](https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/anglereducation/TeachingMaterials#FishWildcards)

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May Lesson: Worms and Fishing

Did you know that there are thousands of species of worms, including earthworms, flatworms and roundworms? Earthworms are the most well-known type and play an important role in soil health by breaking down organic matter and aerating the soil. This means that they eat old leaves and plants, and their movements make tiny holes in the soil, which helps air and water get in.

Worms are also good food for fish, because they are packed with nutrients that fish need to grow and stay healthy. Nightcrawlers are a popular fishing bait for larger fish like bass and trout.

4-H Connection:

There are so many projects youth can enroll in and explore in 4-H. This month's topic relates to the Environmental/ Outdoor Education project area. Throughout our newsletter series, we intentionally explore all project areas to share developmentally appropriate project learning activities with Cloverbuds.

Activity #1: Dancing Worms

Mixing vinegar and baking soda causes an amazing chemical reaction! When combined, they form carbon dioxide gas. Watch this reaction in action by soaking gummy worms in baking soda, then placing them in vinegar. Carbon dioxide gas bubbles rise up through the vinegar and cause the worms to wiggle and come to "life."



Directions:

1. With adult help, cut the gummy worms in four pieces (lengthwise). *It is easier with a wet knife or dusted with baking soda, scissors work well too.*
2. Measure out 3 tablespoons of baking soda and stir into a glass filled with 1 cup of warm water.
3. Mix some of the gummy worms into the baking soda and water mixture.
4. Wait 15 minutes for the worms to soak!
5. While waiting, fill the second glass with vinegar (start with about $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ cup).
6. Fish the worms out and place a few in the glass of vinegar. Be careful not to put too many in. Watch what happens!

Supplies:

- gummy worms
- baking soda
- vinegar
- cutting board
- Knife (or scissors)
- 2 clear cups
- spoon/table spoon



May Lesson: Fishing and Worms

Fishing in Wisconsin is a popular activity. There are over 160 different fish species, over 15,000 lakes and over 43,000 miles of rivers. Ice fishing is also popular in Wisconsin. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has a lot of information about fishing. Check it out. The Spooner Fish Hatchery, Governor Tommy G. Thompson Hatchery, is the largest hatchery of its kind in the world; it is operated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Activity #2: Fishing For Ice Experiment

Supplies:

- Yarn or twine (about 12 inches)
- Salt
- Ice
- Bowl or glass of water

Directions

1. Fill glass or bowl with water
2. Place about 6 ice cubes in glass/bowl.
3. Place the string over the ice cubes. Do you catch anything?
4. Now try placing the string over an ice cube, then sprinkle a small layer of salt over the string. Wait about 30 seconds, then try to pick up the string again
5. Observe what happens. Do you catch anything?



Source: Wyoming 4-H, Campbell County Extension, 411 South Gillette Avenue, Gillette, WY 82716

What's Happening?

If you use too much salt, the ice will melt too fast and the string won't stick. If you wait too long, the string will fall off again. If you don't wait long enough for the ice to form, the ice cube will fall off. When salt is added to ice, it lowers the melting point of the ice. But when the ice is surrounded by freezing temperatures, it quickly freezes again, causing ice to form over the string. When this happens, the string can "magically" pick up the ice!

Make It Corner

Supplies: pipe cleaners, googly eyes (or black marker), rocks, construction paper, glue

Get Creative--make fish and other things you might find in a lake.



GAME FISH OF WISCONSIN



Identification Key

- 1 Muskellunge
- 2 Largemouth bass
- 3 Smallmouth bass
- 4 Northern pike
- 5 Warmouth
- 6 Pumpkinseed
- 7 White crappie
- 8 Walleye
- 9 Bluegill
- 10 Rock bass
- 11 Green sunfish
- 12 Sauger
- 13 Yellow perch
- 14 White bass
- 15 Black crappie
- 16 Shovelnose sturgeon
- 17 Flathead catfish
- 18 Channel catfish
- 19 Lake sturgeon
- 20 Lake trout
- 21 Brown trout (Great Lakes)
- 22 Chinook salmon
- 23 Rainbow trout
- 24 Brown trout
- 25 Coho salmon
- 26 Steelhead
- 27 Brook trout



May Lesson: Fishing and Worms

These activities are great activities to do as a group. Older Cloverbuds could consider leading them with other members at their club; or to find a way to create a new project with the ideas.

Activity #3: Rainbow Fish Read and Friendly Fish

Read the book *Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister. The rainbow fish is the most beautiful fish in the ocean because of his shining silver scales. He is lonely though, and eventually learns that while sharing his scales with the other fish makes him less beautiful, it also makes him happier. Sharing made the Rainbow Fish happy. Let's make our own friendly fish!

1. Think about good friends (like friends who are kind, share, listen).
2. Cut colorful Post-it notes into fish scales (sticky side not rounded).
3. On each scale, write or draw one thing you want in a friend OR one thing you'll do for a friend.(Example: Good listener)
4. Optional: Add glitter like the Rainbow Fish's scales!
5. Stick your scales onto a big fish you draw on cardboard or big paper.

This activity/material is adapted from "Reading Adventures," part of the Ohio 4-H Cloverbud Program, the Rainbow Fish lesson was developed by Kathy Blackford, 4-H Youth Development, Ohio State University Extension.

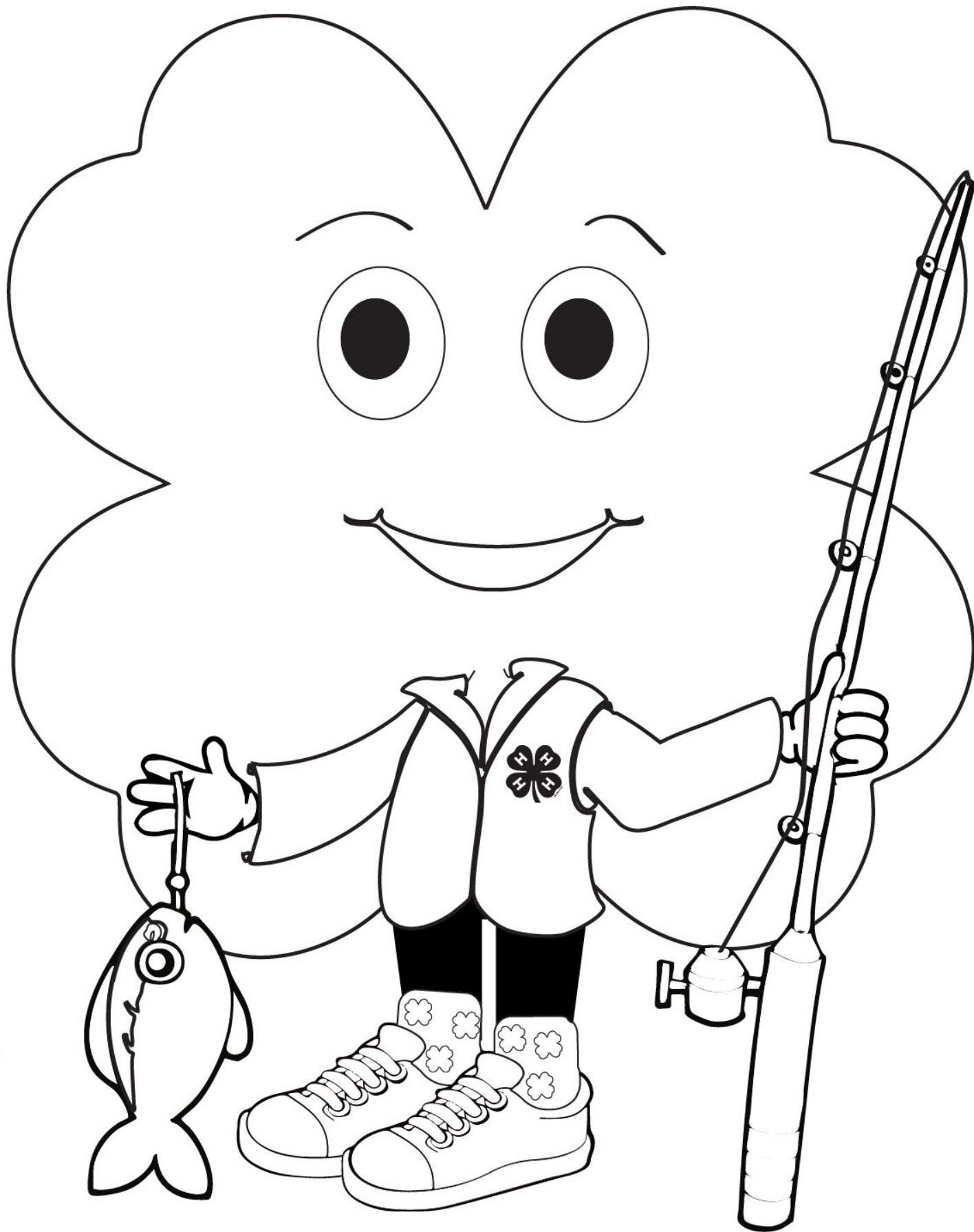
Outdoor Mindful Minute

Go outside and get comfortable on a chair, or on the ground. Take a deep breath. Ask: what are our 5 senses? (*taste, touch, smell, feel, hear*). What do you hear? (*birds, water, wind*) What do you feel? (*warmth of sun, grass on your feet*) What do you see? (*trees, birds*). What do you smell? (*flowers, skunk*)

Next: use the following prompts to start a discussion.

- "I notice..."—Encourage the youth to say out loud everything they notice about nature using all their Senses. For example, "I notice the sun is warm." "I notice the tree is green." "
- "I wonder..."—Encourage the youth to say out loud everything that they wonder about in nature. For example, "I wonder why that nest is empty." "I wonder why that rock has moss."
- "This reminds me of..."—Encourage the youth to say out loud "This reminds me of..." about things in nature that remind them of other things in their lives. For example, "This reminds me of a tree at my dad's apartment." "This reminds me of my family going hunting."

The Wisconsin 4-H Movement



In Wisconsin 4-H we value: Being Yourself, Belonging Together, Building Connections, Discovering Skills, Exploring New Opportunities, and Giving Back to Your Community. Learn more: 4hwi.org. Created by Sara Waldron, Barron County 4-H Educator.

The Wisconsin 4-H Movement



Reflection: Do | Apply | Reflect

What was your favorite activity and why?

Who can you share your knowledge of fishing or worms with? How will you share with them?

Draw a picture or write about one of the activities you did to learn about fishing and worms.