

Dedicated to the Memory of Commissioner Enoch S. "Inky" Moore Jr.

PLAY

Pennsylvania • League • of • Angling • Youth

FALL
2004

FISHING & HISTORY

fishing
spearhead
and bone hook
circa 1550-1575,
from Lancaster
County



Today

we think of fishing as a fun outdoor activity. But it wasn't always like that. Fishing was much different long ago. Humans fished because they had to for food. And the ways they fished were different.

Ancient cultures used spears, nets, bows and arrows, baskets and simple fishing poles. The Egyptians used casting nets tossed from a boat or shore. Some Native American cultures stalked large fish with spears or used a birch-bark basket to catch smaller fish.

Humans also learned that fish could be attracted to bait. One early fishing tool was a gorge made from wood, bone or stone.

It had sharp points at each end, and it was tied to a line and then covered with bait. A quick pull wedged the gorge in the fish's gullet, and it could be pulled in.



Some cultures even got fancy. The Chinese used line made of silk, hooks made of needles, bamboo rods, and rice as bait.

Humans even learned that fishing could be good sport—*it could provide food and be fun at the same time!*

This issue looks at the history of fishing, tackle changes over the years and even the gadgets we use today. *You'll even get a chance to invent your own lure.*

www.fish.state.pa.us