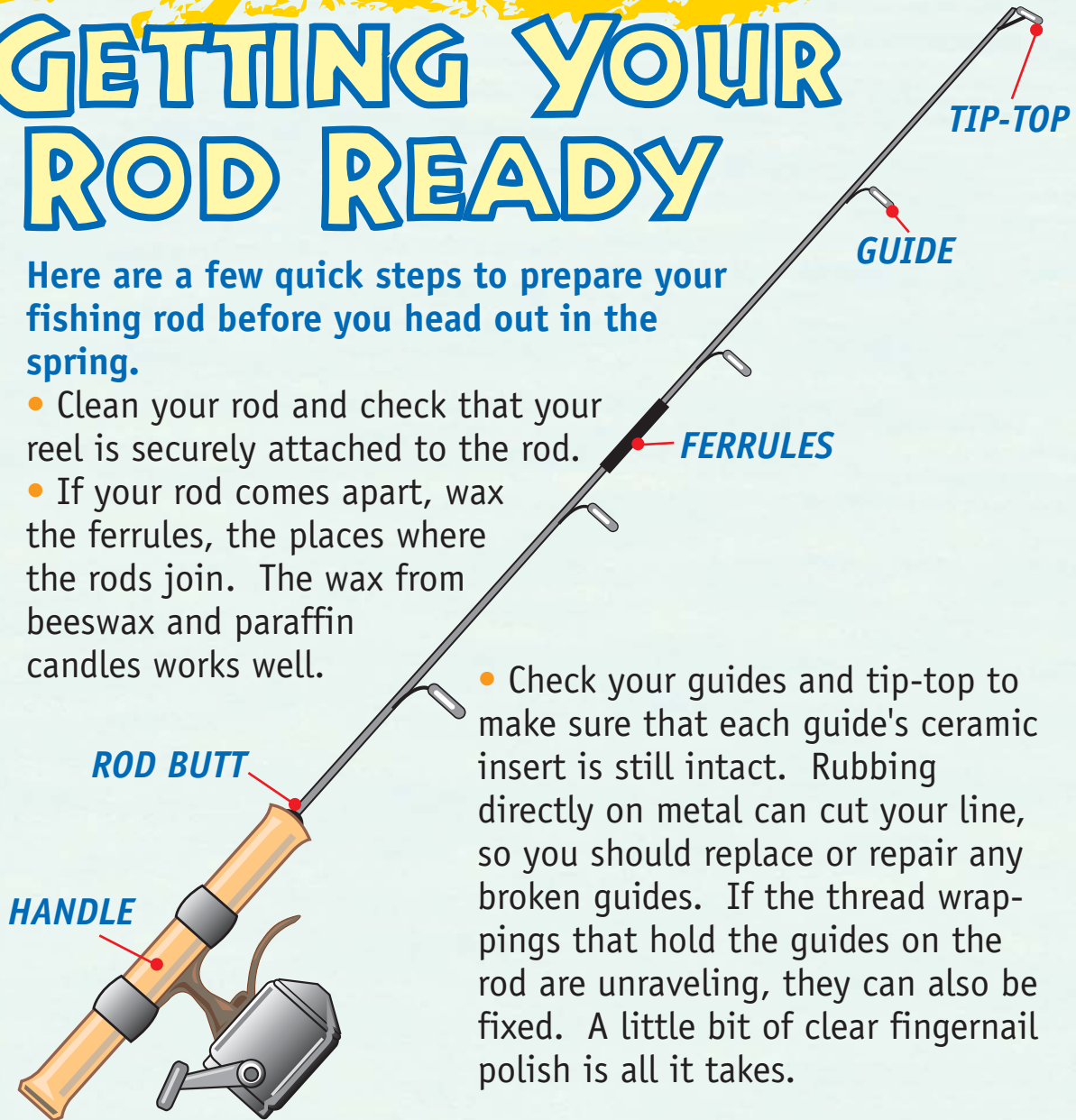


GEARING UP FOR FISHING: GETTING YOUR ROD READY

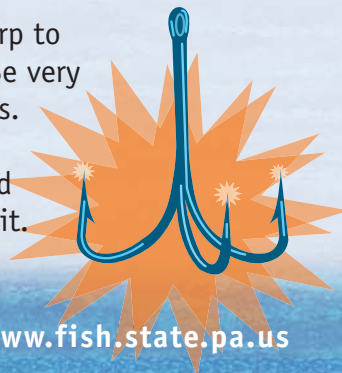
Here are a few quick steps to prepare your fishing rod before you head out in the spring.

- Clean your rod and check that your reel is securely attached to the rod.
- If your rod comes apart, wax the ferrules, the places where the rods join. The wax from beeswax and paraffin candles works well.
- Check your guides and tip-top to make sure that each guide's ceramic insert is still intact. Rubbing directly on metal can cut your line, so you should replace or repair any broken guides. If the thread wrappings that hold the guides on the rod are unraveling, they can also be fixed. A little bit of clear fingernail polish is all it takes.



SAFETY FIRST!

Hooks are designed to be very sharp to help you be a successful angler. Be very careful when you're handling hooks. Also, keep your fishing tackle in a safe place where children, pets and others won't accidentally get into it.



Visit www.fish.state.pa.us and select "PLAY Spring 2001" to learn how to keep your hooks sharp.