

Smallmouth Bass Skills

As you read through this issue of PLAY, you may have noticed that some of the words were highlighted darker than others. Using what you have learned and the darker words you found, complete the words in these 14 sentences.

1. There are three types of ___ A ___ S found in Pennsylvania.
2. Ideal smallmouth bass H ___ ___ I T ___ T includes rocky areas with gravel.
3. Bass are members of the ___ ___ N ___ ___ H family.
4. ___ R ___ ___ Z ___ ___ ___ K is one of the nicknames of the smallmouth bass.
5. Dorsal fins are separated by a S ___ ___ ___ O ___ notch on the backs of smallmouth bass.
6. Smallmouth bass have eight to 15 V ___ ___ T ___ ___ A ___ broken bars along each side.
7. When female bass ___ P ___ W ___, they lay between 2,000 to 7,000 eggs per pound of body weight.
8. Smallmouth bass were found only in the Great Lakes and the ___ H ___ River Watershed until the mid-1800s.
9. A competition to catch fish is called a T ___ ___ N ___ ___ E ___.
10. Smallmouth bass food consists of insect larvae, ___ R ___ ___ F ___ ___ H, and fish.
11. The largest smallmouth bass recorded in P ___ ___ S ___ ___ V ___ ___ ___ was over 8 pounds.
12. Smallmouth bass can grow 20 I ___ ___ H ___ ___ or more in length.
13. Young fish are called ___ ___ Y.
14. Trash, chemicals, and other materials that shouldn't be in the water are called P ___ ___ U ___ ___ N.

Smallmouth Bass Under the Ice

Ice fishing for smallmouth bass can be fun in impoundments—not in rivers or flowing water, even though anglers go after large-mouth bass more than they target smallmouth bass. Nevertheless, fishing minnows on tip-ups is effective. You can try your luck for smallmouth bass wherever smallmouths are present in impoundments under safe ice. However, these waterways are proven smallmouth bass ice-fishing spots: Lake Arthur, Moraine State Park, Butler County; Lake Nockamixon, Nockamixon State Park, Bucks County; Blue Marsh Lake, Berks County; High Point Lake, Somerset County; Ridgeway Reservoir, Elk County; and Yellow Creek Lake, Yellow Creek State Park, Indiana County.

Check ice conditions before venturing onto ice. Always go ice fishing with an adult. Visit the Commission's ice fishing web pages on the Commission's web site, www.fish.state.pa.us, so that you and any adults with whom you fish become completely familiar with ice safety. On the Commission web site main page's left side, hold your cursor over "Fish." In the drop-down menu, click on "Fishing Fundamentals." Then navigate to "Ice Fishing."



PLAY

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1. Bass. 2. Habitat. 3. Sunfish. 4. Bronzeback. 5. Shallow. 6. Vertical. 7. Spawn. 8. Ohio. 9. Tournament. 10. Crayfish. 11. Pennsylvania. 12. Inches. 13. Fry. 14. Pollution