

## Jigs, Buzzbait and Plugs!

Spinnerbaits, poppers, plugs, jigs, buzzbaits and spoons? Which lure is which? When do you use a popper? Or a jig? Let's try to sort this out!

Artificial lures attract fish by their movement, color and/or look. Here are a few kinds of lures and how they work.

## Spoons

These shiny ovals come attached to a single or treble hook. Spoons attract fish by making a wobbly motion when you reel in. They also flutter when they settle in the water.

## Plugs

These long, cigar-shaped lures also make a wobbly movement when retrieved or trolled. They look like baitfish and can be very effective in catching fish.

## Spinners

Small spoons spin around a shaft with a hook attached to one end and the line to the other end. Use them alone or with a plastic skirt in shallow or slow-moving water. These kinds of lures are used within a few feet of the surface.

## Soft-Plastic Baits

Plastic worms, frogs and crayfish are used for all kinds of fish because they imitate natural baits. These lures are among the most widely used and popular artificial lures. They really work!

## Jigs

These lures have a weighted lead head molded over the hook. You can add a plastic skirt, if you like. Fish them with a quick up-and-down motion. These lures are used mid-water and on the bottom, along the edges of vegetation or through the middle—use a plastic weed-guard over the hook when you fish these lures in vegetation.

## Buzzbaits

These specialized jigs have a lead head attached to a hook, often with a plastic or silicone skirt. A wire leads from the head and connects to a rotating blade. These surface or "topwater" lures attract fish by making noise, imitating live baitfish. The fish feel the vibrations through their lateral lines. Retrieve this lure continuously to keep the blade rotating.

## Poppers

The front of a popper has a dished face that spits water when retrieved, imitating live prey. Use short, jerky movements with your rod to move poppers on the

surface. And between these movements let the lure lie still for a few seconds.

This page is only a brief look at artificial lures. Check out the Internet for more information on colors, sizes and which lures work for which fish. Or talk to the people at your local tackle store. Try one of each this summer and find a new favorite lure!



Popular kinds of lures include (across the top) crankbaits, (lower left) a spoon, and spinners.

Answer to Where in PA is Bill Penn?: Yellow Breeches, a famous limestone stream in southern Pennsylvania.

Answers to Big Water Match-Up: 1. Wallenpaupack, 2. Blue Marsh, 3. Black Moshannon, 4. Arthur, 5. Somerset, 6. Marburg.