Anglers use many different types of baits and lures to catch the big one. Baits are any live or dead food item you put on your hook whether it is natural or from the grocery store.

Lures come in all shapes, sizes and colors and can be made of plastic, metal, wood or feathers. Some swivel and spin in the water and some just float.

Why do anglers use different types of baits and lures?

...Think about it. Do you eat the same thing each day? Neither do the fish. Fish live in a variety of habitats and waterways, so fish eat different foods. Anglers have tried fishing with just about everything over the years.

“Pizza Anyone?”
Baits in your Backyard

Fishing baits are in your backyard. Worms are the most popular bait with crickets, grasshoppers and caterpillars following close behind.

Here is a list of popular baits and information on where you can find them! Check with Mom or Dad for a container and ask for permission to collect bait in your yard.

**Worms:**
- Worms love compost, manure, wet leaves and mulch. They also love sidewalks and driveways on rainy nights.

**Crickets and Grasshoppers:**
- Crickets like nooks and crannies. Capture them using an old jar and some stale bread. Grasshoppers are in fields and gardens during early summer mornings. Grab a friend and an old sheet, run through the nearby field to catch these critters. Store grasshoppers in a coffee can with holes in the lid.

**Caterpillars:**
- Caterpillars are on trees and bushes during summer and fall. They can be stored in a coffee can with other critters.

Many types of baits are available to try when fishing; however, these few will help you get started. Can you find these baits in your backyard? Look!

**Backyard baits crossword**

**DOWN**
1. Found on trees and bushes.
2. Found around sheds, homes, sidewalks, under stones.
3. Found in rich soft ground and compost piles.
4. Found in fields and gardens in the morning.

**ACROSS**

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answer Key:
Habitat Adventures

What do all living things need to survive? That’s right! You need a home (shelter), food, water, oxygen and space. This is a habitat.

The recipe for a great trout habitat is cold, clean, fresh water with a mixture of large and medium rocks, pebbles, undercut banks, root systems and vegetation. Trout, crayfish and mayflies love gravel stream bottoms with bubbly riffles.

A warm-water pond, with plenty of vegetation, tree trunks and ample food can be a great habitat for bass.
Old Mother Hubbard went to the cupboard to fetch a poor angler some BAIT?

Is there bait in your Mother’s kitchen? Look inside your cupboard for some kitchen surprises.

**FISH CEREAL**

Mix cornflakes, water and powdered cheese until doughy. Roll balls and freeze over night.

**CATCH S’MORE FISH**

Finicky Fish enjoy fire cooked hotdog chunks, smeared with marshmallows and garlic... Yum.

**DOUGH BOY**

Roll bread bits into balls. Add cinnamon or tuna juice.

Here are a few tasty treats that will help you catch the big one.

- **Little Smokies** - These mini sausages are fish magnets.
- **Rubber Chicken** - Fish love sun-cured, garlic-soaked chicken liver.
- **Sticky Situation** - Chewed and rolled into a ball, teaberry gum catches fish.
- **The Big Cheese** - A cheesy alternative to live bait, cheese balls are irresistible.
- **Worm Bath** - Soaked in vanilla extract, these worms are appetizing.
The Lures of Pennsylvania Waters

Lure fishing is full of action. Fish attack plastic, metal or wood objects as if they are live bait.

**Surface:**

**Surface Lures**
Treble hooks with bodies made of wood or plastic. These lures imitate mice, frogs or injured fish when reeled across the water.

**Artificial Flies**
Constructed of hooks, feathers and synthetic materials, flies imitate small, aquatic or terrestrial animals and insects.

**Subsurface:**

**Jigs**
Jigs are a weighted lead head hook, covered with a minnow or plastic worm. Jigs are bobbed in a vertical motion to attract fish.

**Plugs**
Plugs also known as crankbaits are lures that dive or dart back and forth in the water. Crankbaits imitate minnows or deep-bodied prey and are fished on top of the water or deep down in the water.

**Spinners**
Named after metal blades that spin (when reeled in), spinners flash and vibrate to look like baitfish.
### Come and Get Em!

Help Sunny choose the lure he wants to use to catch each fish. Write the answer on the line under each lure. Lures have more than one answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lure</th>
<th>Fish</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. GREEN POPPER</td>
<td>A. PERCH</td>
<td>Likes lakes and ponds with deeper water. Where there is one perch, there are more.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. SPINNER</td>
<td>B. BROOK TROUT</td>
<td>Lives in small, cool streams throughout Pennsylvania where water is healthy and supports many aquatic insects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. CRANKBAIT</td>
<td>C. LARGEMOUTH BASS</td>
<td>Lives in warmwater lakes, ponds and rivers. They stay near shore in weed beds or by sunken tree stumps. As aggressive feeders, they will give you a good fight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. SPOON LURE</td>
<td>D. SMALLMOUTH BASS</td>
<td>Lives in streams, rivers or lakes. They ambush prey; therefore, they hang tight to boulders and submerged root systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. ARTIFICIAL FLY</td>
<td>E. BLUEGILL</td>
<td>Like lakes, ponds and slow-moving rivers or streams. They prefer quiet, heavily vegetated waters to hide and feed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answers: 1. c, d 2. a, b, d 3. a, c, d, e 4. b, c, e 5. b, c, e
Bait Rules

You wear a bike helmet to bike and a life jacket to boat. These are regulations and laws you need to follow to keep safe. We also have regulations and laws that protect Pennsylvania aquatic resources. Anglers follow these regulations and laws to provide safe and enjoyable fishing experiences.

### BASIC FISHING REGULATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGULATION/LAW</th>
<th>LEGAL</th>
<th>ILLEGAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BAIT</td>
<td>Using minnows, chubs, crayfish, insect larvae and worms.</td>
<td>Using goldfish, koi and carp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Taking fish from one stream or lake and placing them in another stream or lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLECTING BAIT</td>
<td>Using a minnow net to collect bait.</td>
<td>Collecting bait on approved trout waters between March 1 and the first day of trout.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Collecting 50 combined bait species.</td>
<td>Collecting bait on special regulation waters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If you purchase bait, there is no minimum bait amount, but you need your receipt.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FISHING</td>
<td>Using a maximum of 3 hooks per line.</td>
<td>Fishing with a snagging hook.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fishing with 2 rods.</td>
<td>Fishing with 3 rods.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information on fishing regulations, see the *Pennsylvania Fishing Summary*.