

Did you know?



National Fishing Month

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Angling for an invitation or fishing for compliments: we have hooked a lot of fishing expressions into English. And now we can celebrate all things fishy in **National Fishing Month**.

The United Kingdom is a great place to go fishing: there are 12,500 kms of coastline to choose from, as well as 40,000 lakes and hundreds of rivers - and canals. You don't have to go very far to discover a perfect spot to set up your rod and line and see what bites. And with almost three million people actively involved (or sometimes not so actively involved - there can be a lot of sitting!) it plays a big part in British culture and recreation.

National Fishing Month runs from 21st July to 3rd September and there are events all around the country to try to encourage more people to take up the sport. The average angler is a white male aged 51 - so women, ethnic minorities and young people are especially welcome to come and have a go. As well as trying to encourage more people to become involved in the sport, National Fishing Month also aims to inform the general public about the economic, social and environmental benefits of fishing.

But what are the physical benefits of fishing? Although Ernest Hemingway wrote about fighting with a marlin for three days in 'The Old man and the Sea', most anglers have a less stressful experience. However, the physical exercise you receive – walking to find the ideal spot, casting your rod, and, hopefully, reeling in your catch all help your physical well-being.

Commonly, people speak about the relaxation that comes with fishing: the patient wait at the water's edge which helps to calm the mind. Fishing is also seen as a good counterpoint to the technologically-induced stress that dominates our day-to-day lives.

Bildnachweis: Fotolia (W.Scott McGill), New York

Did you know?

So why not take part in your own **National Fishing Month**? You could try setting up an event in a lake, canal or river near you and introduce your students to the delights of angling. It would certainly make for an interesting lesson – maybe one of your students will take to angling like a fish to water. Give it a go – unless you have other fish to fry!

If you would like to find out more about National Fishing Month, then please click here: <http://www.nationalfishingmonth.com>

And if you would like to use National Fishing Month in your lesson, then we have provided you with an activity at B1 level; see the **Teacher's Notes**.

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Teacher's Notes

A fishy quiz (Level B1 and above, 15 mins)

- On the board write **fishing** and ask students if they have ever gone fishing. Would they like to go fishing? Why/not?
- Explain that they are going to have a quiz about fish – and the first team to have a complete fish are the winners.
- Divide the class into teams of four people and write the team names on the board.
- Read out the first question. The teams write down their answer.
- Check the first answer. When a team has the correct answer, draw the body of the fish under the team name.
- Ask question number two. Check the second answer. If the team has the correct answer, draw a tail on the fish.
- Ask question number three. Carry on with a fin on the top of the body of the fish; a fin underneath the body and finally for the fifth correct answer, a big, beady eye! Once the fish is complete, that team are the winners! Just carry on asking questions until one team has a complete fish.
- You can ask any remaining questions for fun.

Did you know?

Questions + answers

A fishy quiz

- 1. What is the English word for *Lachs*?**
Answer: Salmon
- 2. How many species of fish are there in the world?**
Answer: 31,000 (to the nearest thousand)
- 3. What is the English word for *Süßwasser*?**
Answer: Fresh water
- 4. On average, how much fish does each German eat per year?**
Answer: 14 kilos (to the nearest kilo)
- 5. What is the German word for an eel?**
Answer: *Aal*
- 6. What is the English word for *Hai*?**
Answer: Shark
- 7. What do you call a *Fischstäbchen* in English?**
Answer: Fish finger
- 8. What is a fishing rod in German?**
Answer: *Angelrute*
- 9. What is the English word for *Forelle*?**
Answer: Trout
- 10. How many legs does an octopus have?**
Answer: Eight

Did you know?

Worksheet

A fishy quiz

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____