

## Fish Halves

Fish Halves is a good, simple activity to teach:

- fish identification;
- the variety of fish species found in our Texas waters;
- facts about each fish species.

In addition, the activity can serve as:

- a fun ice breaker;
- an introduction of individuals within a group;
- an introductory group speaking/teaching exercise;
- a team building exercise.

Begin by cutting out photos or pictures of fish. Calendars, identification books or fact sheets, posters, magazines, etc. make good sources of photos or pictures. Choose photos/pictures that are similar in size. Cut each photo/picture in half vertically. It is a good idea to now laminate each half to protect it from handling.

The activity begins by giving each person in the group a fish half, head or tail. Make sure a particular fish's head and tail do not end up with individuals close together from the start. Before handing out the fish halves, make sure of an accurate group head count. This will determine how many fish to use. Make sure each fish half has a match within the group. Be a part of the group if necessary to make an even number.

Tell the group that each of them has either a fish head or tail and the other half is with someone else in the group. Instruct the group to:

- move within the group and find their other fish half;
- when a pair forms to make a complete fish, the pair should work together to identify the fish;
- if a field guide of some sort is available to use, the pair should also find out interesting facts about their fish;
- the pair should also learn each other's name (if this is not already known) and learn an interesting fact about one another;
- when everyone has determined their fish identity and completed the other tasks, the group will form a circle and one at a time, each pair will show their fish, identify it to the group, and tell the group the interesting facts about their fish; make sure each individual has a speaking part; in addition, each member of the pair will introduce the other and provide the interesting fact learned about their partner.

Add any details about each fish as necessary and as time allows as each group makes their presentation.

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