

Fishing Teachings + Water Testing



Introduction (*For Facilitators*):

Fishing is more than food, it's a source of cultural identity, knowledge, and responsibility. This activity blends traditional fishing teachings with modern water testing methods to connect the community with both ancestral wisdom and environmental science. Invite a community hunter or fisher along with an Elder to lead the activity. Choose a safe, accessible body of water. Include time for the community members to learn skills like knot-tying, net repair, and catch respect protocols.

Materials Checklist:

- Fishing gear (nets, poles, or demonstration tools)
- Water test kits (pH, clarity, temperature, etc.)
- Net repair materials (string, scissors, mesh)
- Notebooks and pencils
- Buckets for hauling water
- Life jackets if working near/in water
- Sample bottles
- First aid kit

Steps:

1. Introduce the guests: Ask the fisher and or Elder to present about traditional fishing teachings—such as how to show respect, what tools to use, and what the water gives us.
2. Hands-On Practice: Encourage community members to try skills like tying knots, checking nets, or preparing lines.
3. Test the Water: Ask the youth to collect water samples and use testing kits to check things like clarity, temperature, or pH. Record your observations.
4. Reflect Together: Share stories or thoughts in a group circle.

Works Cited

Mahikan Trails. "Mahikan Trails – Indigenous Experiences." Mahikan Trails, Indigenous Tourism Alberta, 8 June 2018, mahikan.ca/.

Oil Sands Monitoring Program. "Community-Based Fish Monitoring Project." Alberta.ca, Government of Alberta, 28 May 2019, open.alberta.ca/dataset/2f62ea92-8f9d-434f-95fc-2def0a6b1384/resource/48cd9f86-bdd3-4584-b4f4-9c7f031a6f92/download/fctfishmonitoring20190528.pdf.