



## Dissect a Fish

### PLAN

- This Adventure is designed to be implemented during an outdoor trip where Scouts fish. The dissection is performed on a caught fish that will be eaten afterwards.
- Copies of the **Sample Fish Anatomy** should be prepared for each group of two to three Scouts.
- Familiarize yourself with the **anatomy poster** and **dissection guide**.
- Prepare for the dissection either at home or with your Troop by practising with the interactive virtual dissection introduced in the online resources section.

### DO

- Remind Scouts that they will all be eating the fish afterwards so they should make their best efforts not to damage the body of the fish.
  - **IMPORTANT:** Prior to starting the dissection challenge, humanely kill the fish by quickly drilling a sharp spike (such as an ice pick or sharpened screwdriver) into the brain of the fish, just above the eyes, and then by moving the spike around to destroy the brain of the fish. This ensures that we are not inflicting any pain on the fish during the dissection.
- Activity #1: The Dissection Challenge**
- This activity can be done at the Scouts' pace or as a competition between groups.
  - Let Scouts explore the fish anatomy independently, providing guidance as needed.
  - Remind Scouts to respect their environment, including animals. Their dissected fish is not something to play with.

### SUGGESTED TIMING

- Introducing the challenge: 10 minutes
- Fishing: Until you have caught enough fish for your Troop.
- Dissection Challenge: 60 minutes
- Fish Ecology: 30 minutes
- Review: 10 minutes

### SAFETY TIP

- Wash your hands before and after touching the fish.
- Handle all knives carefully. Knives are tools, and are not to be played with.

