



The Hatchet Survival Guide

Chapters 11 & 12

Recommendations: For students in Grades 6-9. The first activity can be done inside, the second is best outdoors. Adult supervision recommended for working with sharp objects or tools while fishing.

Purpose: Accompany reading a novel with learning some real survival skills

Materials:

- The Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
 - Free online pdf (contains minor typos) <https://scotland.k12.mo.us/view/637.pdf>
 - Audio: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Zy9rReEBRE>
- Activity Materials will be included with instructions for the specific activities below

Chapter Summaries: With a reliable source of water, a sturdy shelter, an increasing resourcefulness for finding food, and a sense of safety and friendship in being able to make and maintain fire, Brian has time and energy for gratitude, noticing that it is not just the physical that matters.

Survival Skill 10 – Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs for Wellness

“A good laugh, that—cleaning the camp. All he did was shake out his windbreaker and hang it in the sun to dry the berry juice that had soaked in and smooth the sand where he slept. But it was a mental thing. He had gotten depressed thinking about how they hadn’t found him yet, and when he was busy and had something to do the depression seemed to leave. So, there were things to do.”

Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs: a well-established psychological theory that shows how humans cannot be expected to do well unless basic needs are met. Only when a need is met can a human climb to meet more advanced needs.



All human beings have needs that they long to fulfill. For Brian filling these needs takes constant effort but he does work his way up the hierarchy to gaining a sense of pride in what he can accomplish and even self-actualizes the way in which being out in the wilderness has changed him in the ways he thinks and encounters the world.

“But perhaps more than his body was the change in his mind, or in the way he was—was becoming. I am not the same, he thought. I see, I hear differently.”

“At the last trip to the top of the stone bluff with wood he stopped, sat on the point overlooking the lake, and rested. ...and he was quickly caught up in the beauty of the scenery. It was so incredibly beautiful that it was almost unreal. From his height he could see not just the lake but across part of the forest, a green carpet, and it was full of life. Birds, insects—there was a constant hum and song.”

This is Brian’s Hierarchy of Needs from the most basic to the higher needs:

Physiological	Gets water from the lake, food from gathering and hunting, is careful while working to avoid injury, makes sure he feels rested and strong before tackling a big task.
Safety	Finds, builds, and improves shelter, keeps fire and weapons (hatchet, spear) for safety, creates a routine of waking up, breakfast, collect wood, then starts the day which gives a sense of stability.
Belonging	Remembers his friend Terry and his parents to reaffirm that there are people who love and miss him, familiarizes self with the area to create sense of home, keeps fire as a companion.

Esteem	Feels proud of the tools he has made, keeps track of accomplishments such as First Meat Day.
Self- Actualization	Appreciates beauty, improves shelter with creative design, learns from mistakes.

What is your hierarchy?

Choose another story; can be from a novel, movie, tv episode, comic, etc., where the protagonist becomes stranded in some sort of wilderness and must survive. Draw a triangle on a piece of paper and use Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs to track how the character meets their needs. Now compare this to your own life. In what ways are your needs met? What can you do to help yourself fulfill higher needs like self-esteem?

Survival Skill 11 –Fishing

“He stood in the shallows and waited, again and again. The small fish came closer and closer and he lunged time after time but was always too slow. He tried throwing it, jabbing it, everything but flailing with it, and it didn't work. The fish were just too fast.”

Purpose: Develop fishing gear for catching your own food in a survival scenario

Materials:

- A knife for whittling
- Gloves to wear when using the knife
- String of any kind
- Recycled or natural materials
- Check with local by-laws about age requirements, licences, and fishing seasons.

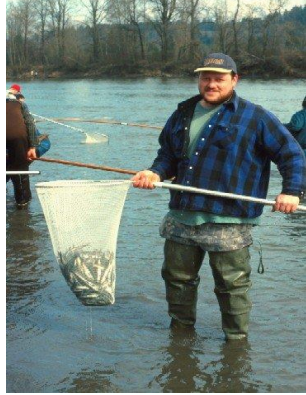
How It Works:

Step 1: Read through the different types of fishing equipment that you can fashion.

Step 2: Choose one, gather the materials you need, and make it!

Step 3: Test it out. ***Important: do not kill a fish if you are not willing to eat it**

Net: There are two types of nets that are used to catch fish. A dip net is passed through the water to scoop up fish and pull them out. The netting can be made from whatever material you can find. A gill net is left in place for fish to swim through and become tangled, this is more difficult as it involves making cordage from natural materials and securing it with the right spacing for fish to become caught.



Spear: For best results split the end of the stick to make three or four sharpened points to increase surface area and therefore accuracy. Spears are best used in shallow water to pin the fish against the bottom of the lake, ensuring capture so that we are not wounding fish unnecessarily.



Hook & Line: Curved, barbed hooks are now made from metal but were traditionally whittled from wood or bone. Bait the hook with an insect and when a fish swallows it, give a slight tug to set the hook and then reel the fish in. Gorge hooks on the other hand are just a thorn or shard of bone or wood. Once the fish swallows it with bait, wait for a moment and then slowly and gently reel the fish in and scoop with a dip net.



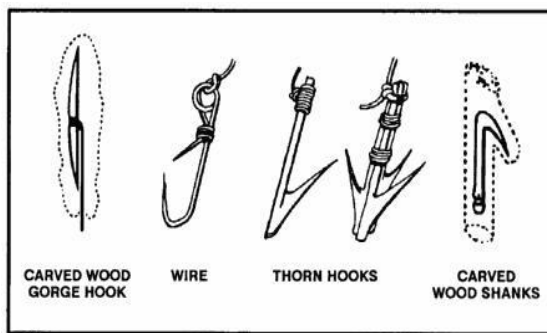
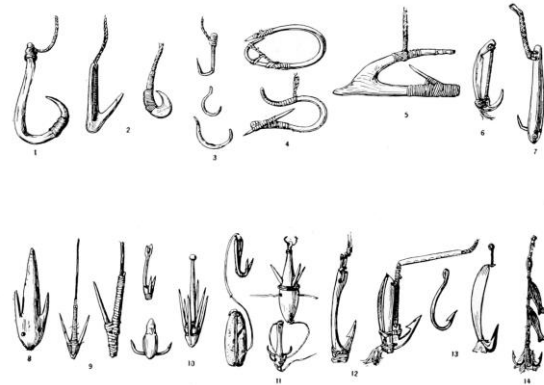


Figure 8-17. Improvised fishhooks.



HISTORY OF FISH HOOKS.

Resources:

<http://butlerproductions.net/wilderness-survival/90-wsfp/86-Fishing-for-survival-in-the-Wilderness>

<http://butlerproductions.net/index.php/wilderness-survival/78-wilderness-survival/111-fishing%20Page%20Two>

See “The Hatchet Chapter 13” on the Gould Lake website for more content!