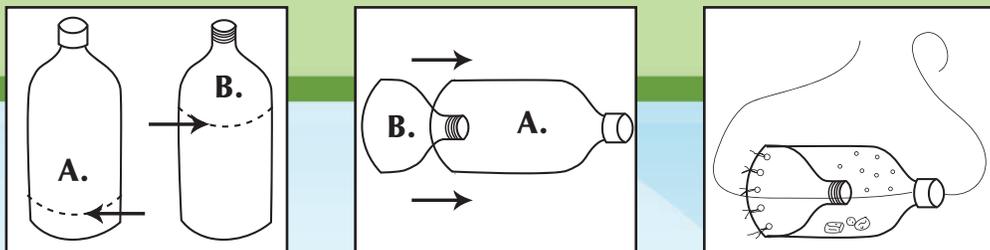


How to make a "Minnow Motel"- They check in, but can't check out!



You're ready for a great day of fishing, but the only thing missing is some bait. No problem. All you have to do is find a couple of empty soda pop liters and string, and in no time you'll have a minnow trap of your own making. Parents, please supervise this project closely since it includes heating a nail. Check the fishing regulations in your area before using a minnow trap since traps are illegal in some areas.

What you'll need:

- One large nail
- String or twine
- Scissors
- Pliers
- Kitchen stove
- Marker
- A bowl of cold water
- Two 3-liter or 2-liter soda bottles
- Tape

Directions:

1. With the marker, label one bottle "A" and the other "B." Cut off the bottom one-third of bottle A and keep the top portion. Make sure to leave the bottle cap on.
2. Cut off the neck and shoulders of bottle B a half-inch below where the sides begin to straighten out. Again, keep the top portion, but this time remove the bottle cap.
3. Fit bottle B snugly inside bottle A with both bottle necks facing in the same direction. Temporarily tape the two bottles together to keep stable. Take your materials to the kitchen stove and set a bowl of cold water nearby. Hold the nail with the pliers, then heat the pointed end using the stove's burner. Heat until it gets good and hot, but do not touch the nail with your bare hands.
4. With the bottles in one hand and the pliers in the other, push the hot nail through the bottom edges of both bottles (the opposite end that you would drink from). 10-12 holes should be enough. Drop the hot nail into the cold water.
5. Using a long piece of string or twine, sew the two bottle parts together and tie it off. Reheat the nail as in step four, and push 12 holes into the top of just bottle A. This will allow for water to flow in so the bottles will sink to the bottom of the lake.
6. Cut a piece of string that's long enough to sink the bottle to the bottom of the lake. Remove the cap on bottle A. Thread the string through both bottle tops with an even amount of string coming out through each end. Screw the cap back on to bottle A. This will hold the string in place and keeps the bottle horizontal when you pull it up out of the lake. Drop bread crumbs or dog food through the neck opening in bottle B.
7. Take the trap to your favorite lake and throw it in. Let it sink to the bottom of the lake, then tie it securely to a dock. Let it sit for a few hours. When you return, there will be plenty of minnows to greet you. Simply open the bottle cap and pour the minnows into your bait bucket. Now you're all set for a great day of fishing!