

# Survival Fun



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Ceremonial skull ball detail from Chichen Itza



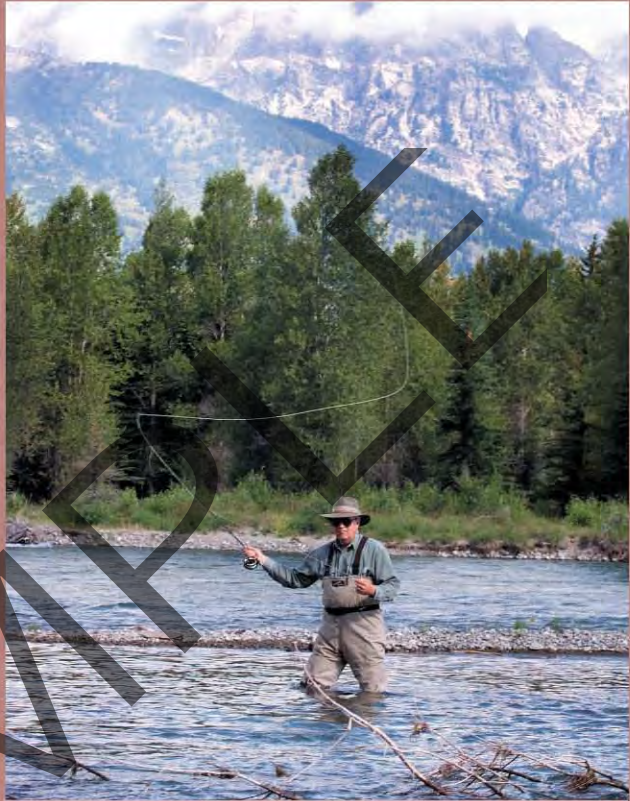


# Skills to Survive

Catch a fish or go hungry. Run because your life depends on it. Build a fire or freeze to death. Could you survive in a world that demanded these things?

Today, many people hunt and fish for relaxation. Some run for exercise, relaxation, and sports events. Others ride horses for enjoyment and competition. Many of the things that people do for fun today were necessary skills thousands of years ago. If people couldn't hunt or fish, they might starve, especially in the winter when **edible** plants are few. Running might save a person's life if a wild animal or an enemy were in pursuit. Riding horses made it easier to cover vast lands in order to follow **migrating** herds.

Although most people no longer need these skills to survive, many still enjoy their



Anglers use light, flexible rods and colorful **flies** to attract trout in fast-moving mountain streams.

modern-day variations. Now people simply enjoy the thrill of riding a horse, or the beauty of nature while fishing, or the freedom of running.



## FISHING

Wall paintings in tombs show ancient Egyptians fishing with rods, nets, and spears. The ancient Greeks and Romans made flies of colorful feathers to attract fish. There are two kinds of modern fishing: commercial and sport. Sport fishing uses the same basic tools and techniques as early anglers. People make flies out of feathers and fish with rods, spears, and nets. One big difference between past and present is the popularity of catch-and-release



This painting shows an Egyptian fishing scene.

fishing. Instead of keeping the catch, the fish are returned to the river or lake immediately after being caught.

Commercial fishing changed with engine-powered fishing boats. Fishing **trawlers** lay down huge nets. Then the boats drag the nets for miles until powerful winches pull them in, capturing thousands of pounds of fish. Because so many fish are caught at once, many parts of the world's oceans are overfished. The large fishing nets don't just catch fish, either. Sea turtles and ocean mammals such as dolphins drown if they are caught in the nets with the fish they are chasing for their own meal.



Large fishing boats have changed the nature of fishing. These boats can go into deep water and catch hundreds of thousands of fish at a time.