

Outdoor Recreation

is

Outdoor Education

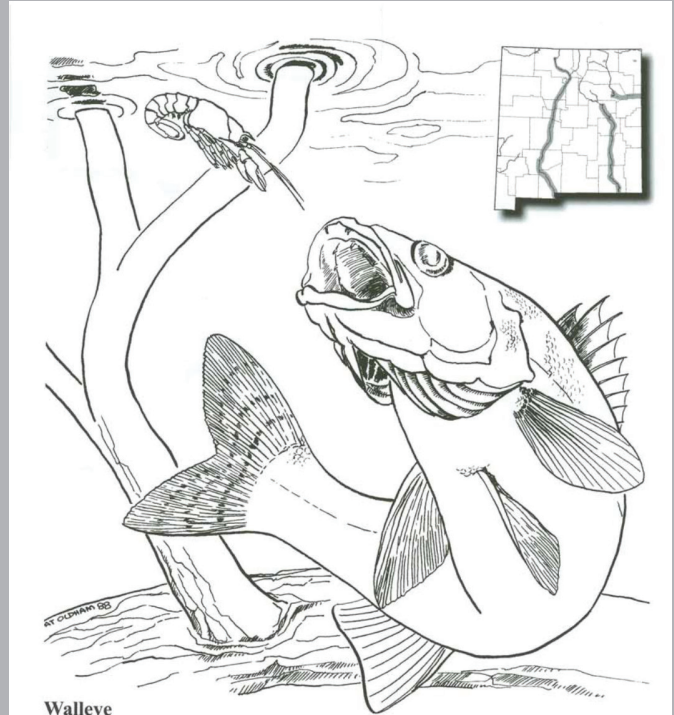
Learning by Coloring - Walleye

Grade level:

Pre-K to 4th

Objective:

Learn about walleye in New Mexico by coloring the following illustration while reading about them. The common name, “walleye”, comes from the fact that the fish’s eyes point outward, as if looking at the walls. This externally facing orientation of the eyes gives anglers an advantage in the dark because a certain eyeshine is given off by the eye of the walleye in the dark, similar to that of lions and other nocturnal animals. This “eyeshine” is the result of a light-gathering layer in the eyes called the tapetum lucidum, which allows the fish to see well in low-light conditions.



Walleye

The walleye is the largest North American species in the perch family and is easily identified by its large milky white eyes and a mouthful of needle-sharp teeth. This sought-after sport and food fish has been introduced into lakes and reservoirs in the Pecos, Rio Grande and Canadian River drainages. It lives in deep waters over firm sand, gravel or rocks, where it looks for other fish to eat, or taking whatever it can find. In New Mexico, walleye spawning takes place in Caballo, Conchas, Ute and Santa Rosa reservoirs. A record catch for walleye in New Mexico came from Clayton Lake in 1989 and weighed in at 16 pounds, 9 ounces and was 32 inches long and 21 inches around.



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

www.wildlife.state.nm.us

888-248-6866

