Make Your Own Minnow Trap!

**What you will need:**

**2,2-3 Liter Plastic Soda Bottles – Clear ones work best**

**Scissors**

**Black Permanent Marker**

**10 inches of sturdy rope – nylon parachute cord works best. Wire can also be used as a substitute**

**3-4 feet of the same rope**

**Something sharp**

**Hole puncher**

**Wet dog or cat food to use as bait**

1. Remove the label from the bottle, make sure to keep the cap on this bottle!
2. **The teacher will have to do this part** - Using the seam at the bottom and a sharp object, poke a hole into the bottle, enough for the scissors to be inserted in to begin cutting
3. Using the punch hole as a guide, cut along the seam until the entire bottom of the bottle has been removed
4. Discard the bottom of the bottle
5. Take the second bottle and fit it into the first using the hold at the bottom. Don’t try to push it all the way in, just to after where the curve of the bottle neck is inside – usually to where the top of the label was at
6. Use the marker to make holes along where the bottles overlap. Remove the second bottle and use the hole puncher to cut out the holes
7. **The teacher will have to do this part** - Place the second bottle back into the first. Using the sharp object, poke a start hole for scissors to fit into at the point where the two bottles meet
8. After the hole is poked, cut the top of the second bottle off in the same way the bottom of the first one was cut.
9. Remove the cap from the second bottle and place it back inside the first. Using the marker, mark where the holes have been punch and, using the hole puncher, punch out the holes on the second bottle
10. Cut the shorter nylon rope and separate the strands. Poke a strand through each hole and tie a knot, holding the bottles together. Do this for all of the holes punched into the bottles. If you are using the wire, cut into pieces a few inches long and poke through the hole. Twist the wire together until sturdy hold is on the bottle.
11. Use the hole puncher to punch four holes at the bottom of the two bottles, opposite of each other
12. Using the longer piece of rope, cut it in half and split those into half. Tie a strong knot at each of the four holes, one piece of the rope per hole before tying all four together at the other end.

Your traps are now ready! Make sure to use a bright rope or marker when you put them into the water so you are able to find them again. Put some of the pet food into the trap before setting it out under the water. If you want the fish to live longer in the trap, poke smaller holes into the sides of the bottle. The holes should be big enough for water to flow through but not big enough to get any fish stuck in them. For best results, let the traps sit overnight.

Final product should look something like this:

