

Salmon, The Journey Home

1. Describe the characteristics of salmon.
2. Identify the kinds of Pacific salmon.
3. Describe the life cycle of the Pacific salmon.
4. Describe how salmon find their way home.
5. Explain the importance of fish hatcheries.
6. Identify the dangers that salmon face from when they are eggs to when they come back to spawn.
7. Describe the food web for salmon.

Helps

1. Salmon are anadromous which means they start life in fresh water, go to the ocean then return to fresh water to spawn. Salmon can be found from the Atlantic to the Pacific and in the Great Lakes in between. Colors vary depending on the variety.
2. Pink, Sockeye, Coho, Chum, Chinook, Dog.
3. Egg, alevin, fingerling, smolt, ocean adult, migrating adult, spawning adult.
4. Scientists believe that salmon navigate by using the earth's magnetic field like a compass. When they find the river they came from, they start using smell to find their way back to their home stream. They build their 'smell memory-bank' when they start migrating to the ocean as young fish.
5. A fish hatchery is a place for artificial breeding, hatching, and rearing through the early life stages. Fish hatcheries are used to replace fish that were lost by human influences, such as pollution, over-harvest, dam construction, and habitat loss due to real estate developments, or that were lost to natural causes, such as flood, drought, and habitat destruction.
6. Oil spills, pollution, city sewage, fish nets/hooks, construction, factory pollutants causing acid rain to run into streams, predators, flooding. This is not an exhaustive list.
7. Communities are made up of plants and animals living together. Green plants can make their own food by using energy from the sun. Animals get their food by eating plants or other animals. A simple order of a plant being eaten by an animal which in turn is eaten by another animal is called a food chain. An example of a food chain would be—water plant eaten by a Mayfly eaten by a fish eaten by a frog eaten by an eagle. In a community many food chains link together or overlap making a food web. A food web is the natural interconnection of food chains. At the bottom of the web are the algae, plants and trees. Above the plants are the salmon and the grizzly bear. The salmon has consumed nutrient-rich plankton and fish from both rivers and the ocean, thus bringing a rich dinner to the grizzly, the birds and other animals and

subsequently to the earth again. It is then taken up into the tree by its roots.
Salmon has fed the tree.

Online you can find more information. You may find these books helpful: *Salmon Forest* by David Suzuki, *The Bizarre Life Cycle of a Salmon* by Mark Harasymiw, *The Magic School Bus Goes Upstream* by Joanna Cole.