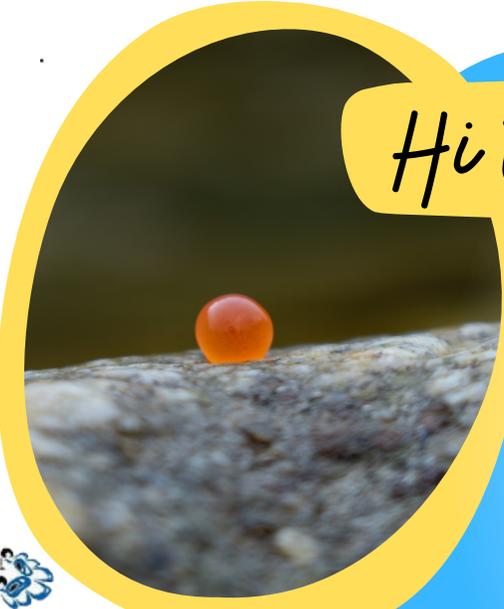


MEET YOUR



Hi there!

I'm your developing Chinook Salmon egg. Thanks for choosing to sponsor me! See my bright orange-red colour, and notice how shiny I am. You can almost see your reflection if you get close enough!

SIZE: 6 mm

Congratulations

Your beautiful salmon egg is developing into the **eyed egg** stage, after 2 months at the hatchery

First Life **STEPS**

- 1** Cozy in the gravel
- 2** Wait patiently
- 3** Hatch!
- 4** Hide out in the rocks...

Did you know in the wild only 1 out of every 2,000 eggs survive to spawn.
With the help of hatcheries, like ours, survival rate of eggs to spawning doubles

Not all fish develop at the same rate, just like humans. The first thing you will notice as your baby salmon develops is the eyes!



Grow **SCHEDULE**

Check out salmon life-cycle video here:
[Online Education \(kingfishercentre.org\)](http://Online Education (kingfishercentre.org))



Egg



Eyed Egg

This is me now!



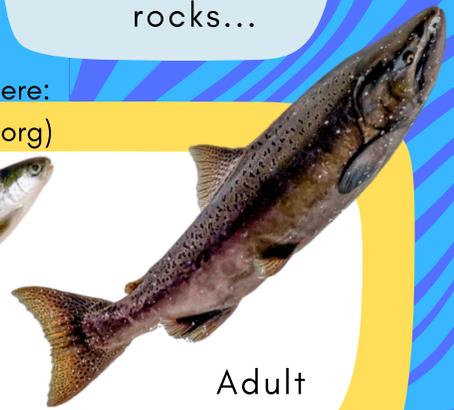
Alevin



Fry



Smolt



Adult

Read more about my life-cycle in the pages ahead



SALMON LIFE CYCLE

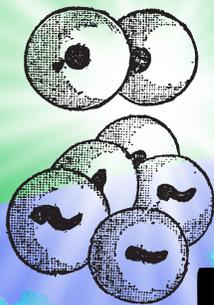
Egg



As you know, salmon begin their life as an egg. In the wild, spawning female salmon dig nests in gravel, called redds. When they are ready to release eggs, they sink to the bottom of the redd, gaping their mouth open and using the water current to go deeper. Males compete to fertilize the eggs.

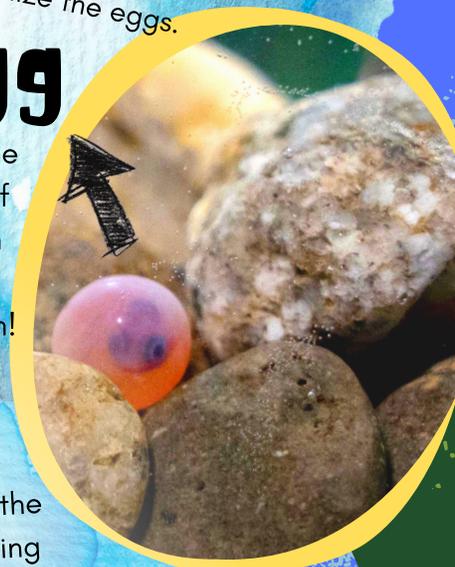


Interesting Facts About YOUR Eyed Egg



Eyed Egg

If you look closely at your egg, you can see the eyes of the growing salmon, and even the spine that is developing. If you have really good eyes, you can even see the salmon head. It's only a matter of time and water temperature until your little eyed egg will hatch and become an Alevin!



Alevin

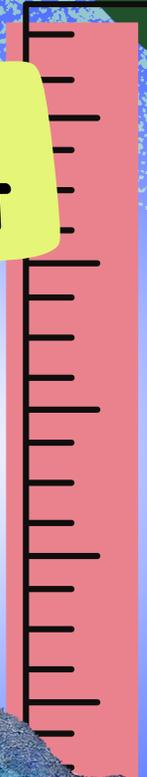
Even though the egg has hatched, the baby fish is not ready to be swimming yet! In the wild, alevins will remain hidden under the rocks where they are safe from predators. They are born with a built in 'lunch box', which is actually a yolk sac left over from their egg, so they don't need to go in search of food.



Grow CHART



- Fry 3-6 cm
- Alevin 2-3 cm
- Egg/Eyed Egg 0.5-1 cm



Fry

Once all the nutrients from the yolk sac have been absorbed by the alevin, they become fry and wriggle out of the gravel. The first thing they will do is swim to the surface of the river and take a BIG gulp of air. The air is used to fill their swim bladder, which helps the fish to float better in water.



Fry have **parr** marks on their sides (the pattern bar-like spots useful for camouflage)

Important Habitat

Estuaries, where fresh river water mixes with the salty ocean water are important habitat for salmon. They will stop to get used to the new salty conditions here

JOURNEY TO THE OCEAN

PACIFIC OR BUST!

Smolt

As the fish grow bigger, they will eventually need to begin their journey down the river to the ocean. Before they migrate, they lose their parr marks and gain the dark back and light belly characteristic of fish living in open water. They are now called **smolts**, or young salmon. Their body has to adjust to the saltwater before they can head out to sea, so they spend time in estuaries.

Adult

Now that the salmon have reached the ocean, they will now be feeding on 'forage fish' such as herring, and anchovies. They will eat lots, and continue their development into adults.

They can spend between 1-7 years in the ocean, depending on the species

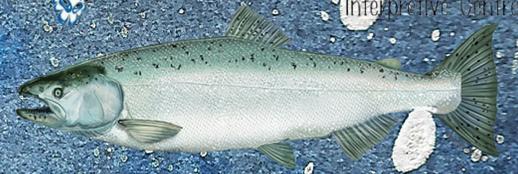
" I HOPE THE LADIES THINK I'M HANDSOME "

Spawner

Salmon spawn by first leaving the ocean and finding their way back to the stream where they were born using their **SALMON SUPERPOWERS** (read more next newsletter).

The females will dig nests, called redds, using their tails. This provides a safe spot for her eggs to be laid. Males compete with each other to gain access to the females. Pacific Salmon spawn only once in their lifetime. Spawning occurs at the very end of their life-cycle. The length of the life-cycle depends on the species of salmon

Read more about how salmon spawn in our next newsletter



SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

Your sponsored salmon is a **Chinook Salmon!**

DID YOU KNOW?

5 There are 5 species of salmon found in BC: **Chinook, Sockeye, Chum, Coho, and Pink** salmon. **Chinook** are the largest.

CONSERVATION

Most Chinook populations in BC are listed as endangered or threatened due to factors like climate changes, habitat destruction, and over fishing

HABITAT

Chinook salmon are **anadromous**— meaning they hatch in freshwater streams or rivers then migrate to the ocean to feed and grow. The population of Chinook in the Shuswap River travel near 700 km upstream from the mouth of the Fraser River

SPAWNING

Season:

Late summer to early fall

Age:

Usually 2-7 years old

*Your Chinook salmon has started its life at the Kingfisher Interpretive Centre hatchery. After it is released into the Shuswap River next spring, it will start a long journey to the ocean. Likely stopping for a year or two to **rear** or grow in lakes and estuaries along the way.*

After it reaches the ocean, it will spend a few years feeding there, then return home in the late summer or early fall to spawn in the Shuswap River. All Chinook will die after spawning, but they become a very important part of the food chain as they decompose.

SIZE

Mature adults average a length of just under 1 meter (3 feet) and weigh about 30 lbs. Chinook have been recorded as long as 4.9 feet and up to 129 pounds

DIET

Young Chinook feed mainly on insects (land and aquatic), amphipods (shrimp), and other crustaceans. Adult Chinook mainly eat other fish.

PREDATORS

Larger fish and birds eat young Chinook salmon. Ocean animals like orcas (endangered species), sea lions and sharks love to eat adult salmon.

KEYSTONE SPECIES

When salmon die after spawning their carcasses become sources of nutrients for the river and surrounding ecosystem, as well as newly hatched salmon!



CHINOOK

Oncorhynchus tshawytscha

SALMON

"Tonight our special guest is **THE LARGEST...**"

Word Search

SALMON

Life Cycle



WWBBEEESONBPEVKA
GHABITATCLSEGL
DFGTRXEYEETGIYE
ESUBENWUIAAGSEV
CJTMYRIVERDNMDI
OUHVUKFHTORFOEN
MKIPREDATORSLGC
PCPIFRYXLR CRTGH
OLHZAYYTSLREDDU
SFAIDL PXAPSMLGM
ITZFNVAIJDAZLNI
TZSZLOHRNEKWMRE
INCDXGOTZKQRNUT
OLOQTSOKSOCENEH
NPNBLTVOIVOSMOR

Decomposition

Waterfalls

Predators

Chinook

Habitat

Spawner

Alevin

Eyed Egg

River

Ocean

Smolt

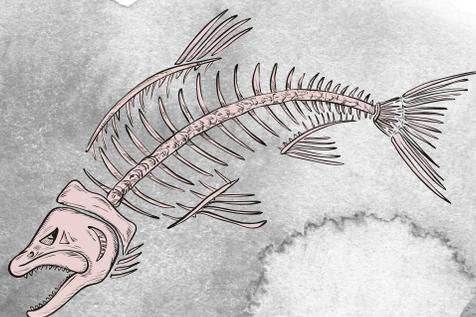
Redd

Pink

Fry

Chum

Egg



RIDDLE

Can run, but never walks
Has a mouth, but never talks
Has a head, but never weeps
Has a bed, but never sleeps

WHAT IS IT?

Draw a line to match the salmon life-cycle stage (photo) to its name, then fill in the correct order of the stages by number (1-7) in the empty circles



EYED EGG



ALEVIN



EGG



FRY



ADULT

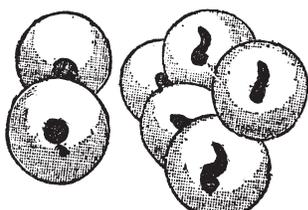


SMOLT



SPAWNER

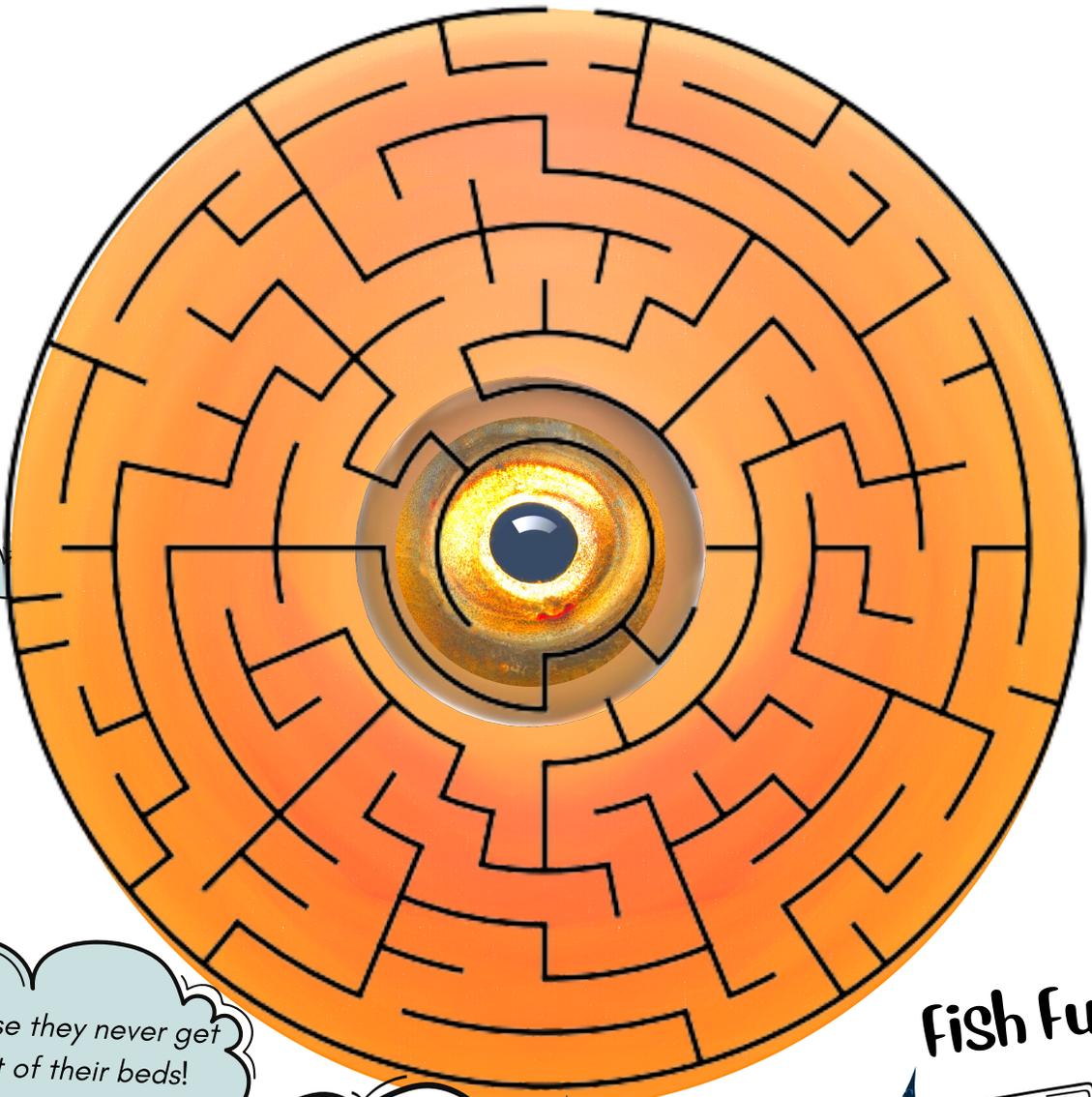
Eyed Egg



MAZE

Find your way to one of the eyes of the developing salmon, inside the egg

Start
↓



What do you call an old snowman?..

A Creek!

Jokes!

Why are rivers always so lazy?

Cause they never get out of their beds!

Where does a salmon go to deposit a cheque?

To the river bank!

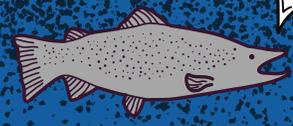
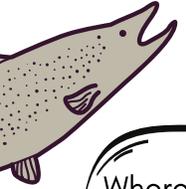
What do you call a fish with no eye?

Fsh...

Why do salmon like to listen to the news?

So they're up to date with current events

Fish Fun!



SALMON

Life Cycle

Colour the salmon stages starting from egg (counter-clockwise) to spawners. You can use middle space to sketch your eyed egg!



Remember that the colour of adult Chinook salmon changes as they leave the ocean to spawn...