



# RE-CAP!

## SALMON LIFE CYCLE STAGES

### 1. Egg

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.



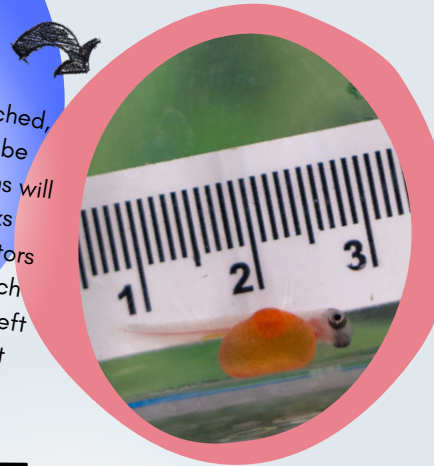
### 2. Eyed Egg

If you look closely at a developing egg, you may see the eyes and the spine of the baby salmon. You may even see the salmon head. It's only a matter of time and water temperature until the eyed egg hatches and becomes an Alevin!



### 3. 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.



### 4. 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

### 5. 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.



" I JUST SWAM 660 KM TO GET HOME! "

### 6. 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. Depending on the species, they will spend 1 to 7 years in the ocean before spawning.



### 7. Spawner

Salmon spawn by first leaving the ocean and finding their way back to the stream where they were born using their **SALMON SUPERPOWERS!**

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

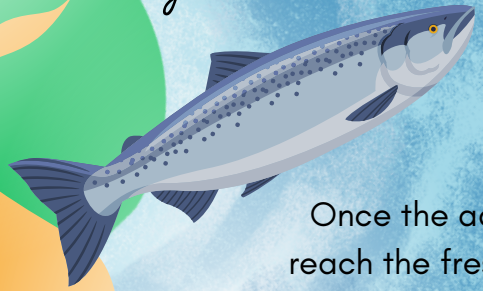
# SALMON SUPERPOWERS

ENDURANCE

*When salmon near the end of their life-cycle, they migrate back to where they were born.*

## SLIME

The scales of salmon are covered in slime, that protects them from bacteria and makes them slippery to avoid getting caught by predators



Once the adult fish reach the freshwater, they will STOP eating and can spend up to 6 months without food during spawning.

Some fish will even travel up to 3,000 km's back upriver to reach their spawning grounds

## SMELL

Salmon have an incredible sense of smell. It is used to help guide them back to where they began their life. They remember specific chemical signatures of their home stream! The sensitivity to smell chemicals is down to one part per million.

## DON'T QUIT



## JUMP!

*On their way upriver, they jump waterfalls!*



## AMAZING

Salmon have been recorded making vertical jumps of 12 feet - way higher than any Olympic high jumper!



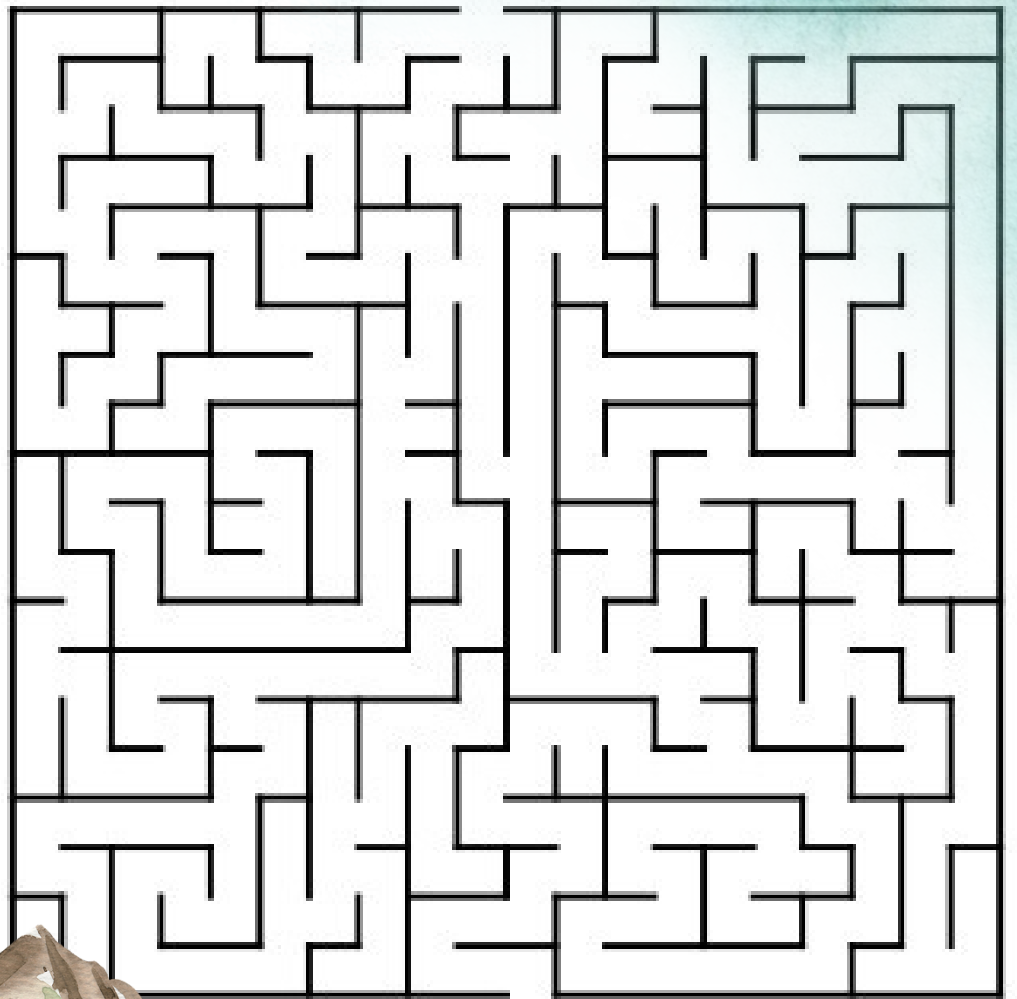
a-MAZE-ing

# SALMON

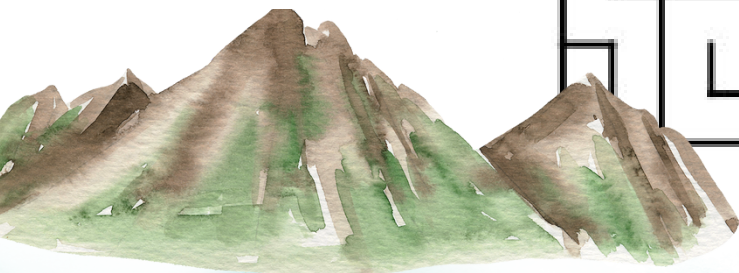
## Superpowers

Use your salmon superpowers to find your way back to the spawning grounds from the ocean

START 



SPAWNING  
GROUNDS



You are a Chinook smolt, who is newly adapted to the salt water environment, after spending time in the estuary. As you head for the open ocean where you will feed and grow for a few years (until it's time to spawn), you must be wary of dangers! You may encounter many predators in your new ocean surroundings!



**Start**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62

Orca's favourite food are Chinook! Take a step back as you are chased by a hungry orca

You come across a school of herring, (one of your favourite ocean foods) and have a big lunch!

A harbour seal comes out of nowhere - you swim as fast as you can to get away. Go back to 17.

**Finish**

A fisherman catches you near the shore and releases you into the tidal current. Go back to 55.





**KINGFISHER**

Interpretive Centre

# COLOUR ME!



Fred discovers his superpowers...