

THEME:	Creek Habitat and Salmon Enhancement
SCOPE & SEQUENCE UNIT:	Salmon Enhancement
OBJECTIVE:	Understand fish and creek connection
ACTIVITY:	Salmon in the Classroom (Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) program)

Notes:	Inside
Teacher Prep.:	<p>If you teach in British Columbia, or Yukon, contact your local representative for the Salmon in the Classroom program early in the school year to be included in the program and to learn the date of the arrival of the salmon eggs in the classroom, with the aquarium and cooler. See Resources below for DFO contacts.</p> <p>Otherwise, consider contacting a local Fisheries office for a possible visit to a fish hatchery, whether private or government run, and investigate possibilities for your class assisting with fish release.</p>

Skills:

- ◆ Ecological literacy

Objectives:

- ◆ To understand the interconnections of salmon, creek and people
- ◆ To understand the pacific salmon life cycle
- ◆ To understand salmon freshwater ecology
- ◆ To understand the interconnections of salmon and First Nations

Background Information:

Salmon in the Classroom program: DFO offers the opportunity for salmon eggs to be brought into the classroom and placed in gravels in the bottom of a chilled aquarium. Eggs incubate in the tank in the dark while students monitor the water quality and watch for the hatching of the alevins. Once the alevins have “swum up” it is time for them to go into the creek for reintroduction.

Use the online resources (see below) for teaching resources and to take the study and investigation in whatever direction you and your class chooses. In conducting a year-long, in-depth study of a local creek, students develop a deep understanding of the creek and the various ecological, societal, and economical issues surrounding the creek. It is the caring of the salmon eggs and the eventual release of the fry, each student releasing a cup of their own fry, that offers a very powerful link between the student and creek. The hands-on release of the young fish, done by the students individually is most important.

Resources:

DFO Stream to Sea education program

<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/education/index-eng.htm>

program offered at three different grade levels (primary, intermediate, & secondary)

Application for Salmon in the Classroom participation

<http://salmonid.sd73.bc.ca/sitc.html>

this site also offers teacher resources

Taking it Further:

Whole curriculums are available related to Pacific Salmon, their ecological, social and economical significance, and First Nations interconnection