



## Life cycle diagram

The life cycle model can be used in conjunction with the life cycle flashcards. Members can be asked to put them in order/ match with flash cards.

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## Salmon Art Activities



Make puppets using cut out pictures and glueing them to hard cardboard and tape to sticks.



Using rocks to recreate models of salmon (fish)

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## Welcome to your NatureKids BC Salmon Toolkit!

THIS KIT CONTAINS EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO PLAN AND DELIVER A SALMON THEMED EXPLORER DAY.

### HERE'S WHAT IS INCLUDED IN YOUR KIT:

- 1) Tri-fold with a sample Explorer Day template and "how-to" descriptions for the various models, molds and demonstration tools
- 2) Salmon Species Identification Cards (marine and freshwater stages)
- 3) Salmon Life Cycle Flash Cards
- 4) Many pages of activities and games including:
  - a) Salmon Migration games
  - b) NOAA Salmon Survival board game
  - c) Life Cycle Stages Rock-Paper-Scissors Game
  - d) Salmon Art activities
  - e) Smell Your Way Home Activity
  - f) Colouring Sheets
  - g) Salmon facts
  - h) Salmon-related Book List

This is hours of games and activities! Choose the elements that are best suited to your community club and enjoy!

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# Salmon Fall Explorer Day Outline

## SUGGESTED ITEMS TO BRING FOR DAY:

- Dress for the weather
- Polarized sunglasses for better fish viewing
- Camera or cell phone for taking pictures
- Water and snack

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME
Welcome, Introduction, Sign-in, Brief plan of day	5-10 min
Explain Salmon life cycle with <b>flash cards</b> or using one of the plastic models ( <b>spawning demonstration</b> or <b>5-piece life cycle models</b> )	10-15 min
Play <b>Salmon Life Cycle stages game "Rock-Paper-Scissors"</b>	10 min
<b>Walk and look for spawning salmon</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I.D. using the Fisheries and Oceans Canada poster</li> <li>• Encourage wearing polarized sunglasses for better viewing</li> <li>• Stop and watch salmon behavior</li> </ul>	1 - 1.5 hours
During the walk or when return to start play (set up prior) <b>Smell your way home</b>	20-30 min
<b>Select the best options for your community club!</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play Salmon Migration game</li> <li>• Salmon art projects</li> <li>• Play NOAA Salmon Migration board game</li> <li>• Cut and place Salmon Anatomy Diagrams</li> <li>• Pass out the colouring sheets and crayons.</li> </ul>	30 min
Closing Circle sharing Reflections	

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# How to make and present the Salmon Spawning Model:

For this activity, we invite you to watch this explanatory video courtesy of Kingfisher Interpretive Centre Society Youtube channel, Lesson 07 – The Salmon Lifecycle

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 2 plastic salmon models (these need to be cut open with a small hole where you can put the plastic eggs in one (female) and some baby powder in the other (Male).
- plastic red or orange beads (eggs)
- baby powder (milt)
- tray or clear plastic bin
- different sized river rocks and gravel, some sand (a few inches



# Steps and Story for explaining Salmon spawning:

**1) Introduce your Salmon,** "This is a male (boy) salmon, his name is Sam. This is a female (girl) salmon, her name is Ella." Explain that these salmon are getting ready to spawn. What does the female have in her tummy? (*eggs*) What does the male have in his tummy? (*sounds like milk but with a "t" - milt, the fertilizer or sperm*).

**2) Tell a story** (move the fish at the same time) how Sam and Ella have left the ocean and become spawners they are smelling their way home. They are coming back to where they were born. Here they are swimming up the river and looking for a good place to spawn. What makes a good place? (*clean, cold water, different sized rocks and gravel, safe place to lay eggs*).

**3) Once Ella has found a good place to lay her eggs, does she just lay them on top of the rocks?** (*No, this would leave them exposed to predators and sunlight*). What does she do? (*She digs a nest or Redd with her tail - show this*). Then she stays close by until she is ready to lay her eggs. She also needs Sam to help.

**4) What does Sam need to do?** (*Sam needs to fertilize the eggs with his milt*). Sam is also swimming around and defending the Redd from other males (show Sam swimming around).

**5) Before Ella lays her eggs she needs to give Sam a signal that she is ready!** This is very important because the eggs need to be fertilized very quickly. There is only about 30 seconds before the tiny hole in the egg closes up and the sperm are no longer able to swim. Therefore, Ella does something to let Sam know she will be laying her eggs. She opens her mouth really wide (called Gapping - get the children to open their mouths really wide).

**6) Show...** Ella is ready to lay her eggs, she opens her mouth really wide... Sam moves in beside... The eggs start coming out of Ella... The eggs are coming out.... Sam comes in and deposits the milt just in time!! Now we have baby fish growing inside those eggs.

**7) What does Ella do now?** (*She swims upstream and back on her side and buries the Redd with her tail to protect the eggs from predators*). Then, Ella will build several more nests until all her eggs are deposited. Sam will fertilize them again and then other females until his milt is finished.

**8) What happens after these fish are finished spawning?** (*Once they run out of energy they will die and become food for other animals as well as fertilizer for trees, etc.*)

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