Name: _____ Date: _____

The Salmon Who Swim Home Up the River

Circle group

A salmon starts life in a small, clear river. It is tiny when it hatches. Then it swims down the river to the sea. It grows big in the salty water.

When the salmon is grown, it swims back to the river where it was born. The water pushes the other way. The salmon keeps going.

Sometimes there is a waterfall. The salmon leaps up out of the water. It tries again and again.

At last it gets to the quiet place where it began. It lays its eggs in the gravel. Baby salmon will hatch, and the story starts over.

Questions

1. Where does a salmon start its life?

_____

_____

2. Where does the salmon grow big?

_____

_____

3. Where does the grown salmon swim back to?

_____

_____

4. What does the salmon do at a waterfall?

_____

_____

5. Why is it hard to swim up the river?

_____

_____

Words to know

salmon: a large fish that swims up rivers to lay eggs
hatches: comes out of an egg
gravel: small stones at the bottom of a river

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Salmon Who Swim Home Up the River

Triangle group

A salmon starts life in a small, clear river. It is tiny when it hatches. After a time, it swims down the river and out to the sea. It grows big in the salty water.

Then something amazing happens. When the salmon is grown, it swims back to the river where it was born. It has to swim against the current. The water pushes the other way, but the salmon keeps going.

Sometimes there is a waterfall in the way. The salmon leaps up out of the water. It may try again and again until it gets over.

At last the salmon reaches the quiet place where it began. There it lays its eggs in the gravel. Soon new baby salmon will hatch, and the story starts over.

Questions

1. Where does a salmon start its life?

_____

_____

2. Where does the salmon grow big?

_____

_____

3. Where does the grown salmon swim back to?

_____

_____

4. What does the salmon do at a waterfall?

_____

_____

5. Why is it hard for the salmon to swim up the river?

_____

_____

Words to know

salmon: a large fish that swims up rivers to lay eggs
hatches: comes out of an egg
current: water that moves in one direction
gravel: small stones at the bottom of a river

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Salmon Who Swim Home Up the River

Square group

A salmon begins its life in a small, clear river, where it hatches as a tiny fish. After a while, it swims downstream and out to the sea, and it grows large in the salty water.

Then something remarkable happens. When the salmon is fully grown, it travels all the way back to the river where it was born. It must swim against the current, which pushes in the opposite direction, but the salmon does not give up.

Occasionally a waterfall blocks the way, and the salmon leaps up out of the water. It may try again and again until it finally gets over the top.

Eventually the salmon reaches the quiet place where its own life began. There it lays its eggs in the gravel. Soon new baby salmon will hatch, and the cycle begins once more.

Questions

1. Where does a salmon begin its life?

_____

_____

2. Where does the salmon grow large?

_____

_____

3. Where does the fully grown salmon travel back to?

_____

_____

4. What does the salmon do when a waterfall blocks the way?

_____

_____

5. Why is the trip up the river so difficult for the salmon?

_____

_____

Words to know

salmon: a large fish that swims up rivers to lay eggs
hatches: comes out of an egg
current: water that moves in one direction
gravel: small stones at the bottom of a river

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: The Salmon Who Swim Home Up the River

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: The Salmon Who Swim Home Up the River

Easier · 101 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.5

1. In a small, clear river.
2. In the sea.
3. The river where it was born.
4. It leaps up out of the water.
5. The water pushes the other way.

Triangle: The Salmon Who Swim Home Up the River

This passage · 128 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.5

1. In a small, clear river.
2. In the sea.
3. The river where it was born.
4. It leaps up out of the water.
5. It must swim against the current, which pushes the other way.

Square: The Salmon Who Swim Home Up the River

Harder · 138 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.3

1. In a small, clear river.
2. In the salty sea.
3. The river where it was born.
4. It leaps up out of the water, trying again and again.
5. It must swim against a current that pushes the opposite way.