



Illustration by Zach Mandell, Hidden Valley High

UNIT 4. SALMON

INTRODUCTION:

This unit introduces the student to the star of our program, the Pacific Northwest Salmon. In order to understand the plight of the salmon, and to conceive possible solutions to their declining populations, it is necessary to understand what and who they are. This means learning their anatomy and taxonomy (the “what”), and how salmon change during their lives (the “who”), as well as how they use their senses to cope with a difficult, migratory life. In this unit, we hope to give the student an opportunity to swim for a while with a salmon’s fins. Focus on making the salmon come alive as a living organism in the student's mind. This awareness plays an important part in establishing an ethic, which incorporates the conservation of our wild fish heritage into the student's view of Pacific Northwest watersheds. Another important aspect to this unit is to provide you with a host of information about the salmon to use to compliment the lessons and activities and/or to use in any manner you see fit to facilitate learning about salmon.

OBJECTIVES:

Students will:

- know and understand the general anatomy and physiology of salmonids.
- be able to identify the similarities and differences among the five salmonid species.
- further understand the life cycle of the salmon.
- know and understand the habitat requirements of salmonids.

SECTIONS:

- A. The Journey of Wild Pacific Salmon
- B. External Characteristics of Salmonids
- C. Goin’ Fishin’ - Identifying Salmon Species
- D. Sniffin’ Salmon - Salmonid Life Cycles
- E. Salmon Supplemental Information