

Animals of the World: Fish



THE SALMON



Salmon are amazing. They can swim from freshwater to saltwater without dying.

Depending on the species, a salmon's color can be pinkish or orange and even blues, grays, and greens. Size and weight vary from one species to another, but they can reach two meters long and up to 45 kilos in some Atlantic regions.

There are varied species of salmon, but the best known are the pink salmon, the Japanese salmon, and the Danube salmon.

The salmon returns to the river where it was born to reproduce. Its incredible sense of smell guides it back home no matter how long it has been since it was there.



To return home, the salmon will climb cascades and swim against the currents with extraordinary jumps that can be as high as two meters. This is why salmon are considered strong and vigorous. Despite its strength, many have accidents along the way or die trying to reach its destination.

The speed at which the salmon moves is incredible, and they need great strength to swim against the current.

Salmon feed on smaller fish such as herring, insects, and crustaceans. What they eat causes their skin color changes to more pink tones or lighter. Salmon do not eat while they are building their nest or while migrating to another place. It is common for some of them to die in the process of spawning, which means laying eggs for the future birth of salmon babies.

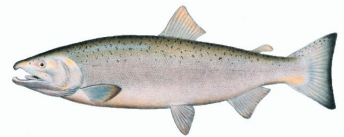
Females lay orange-colored eggs on the sandy soil. They lay about two thousand eggs. Not all two thousand salmon are born since many die trying to hatch.



Its main predators are animals such as herons, otters, cormorants, and overfishing. Overfishing has a devastating effect on salmon and the ecosystem. Climate change also affects the salmon.

People in some areas of the world have created salmon farms. Hatcheries protect baby salmon to ensure their growth and sale for human consumption.

The cost of wild salmon and salmon from a hatchery is different. Wild salmon sells at exorbitant prices, and few people can afford to buy it.



Uncontrolled fishing is one of the main causes of salmon disappearing in some areas of the world. Environmental platforms and associations are trying to protect salmon.



Salmon is an important food source for people all over the world. Salmon is eaten grilled, baked, stewed, in soup, and countless other recipes. Its consumption gives humans high protein and omega 3 fatty acids that have health benefits.

What about you? Have you ever eaten salmon?

Name _____ Date _____



THE SALMON

Answer the questions.

1. Salmon are interesting animals because _____

- a. they are capable of spawning in rocky terrain.
- b. they are able to live in fresh water and saltwater.
- c. they are exclusively wild animals.
- d. they are reptiles weighing up to 45 kilos.



2. Salmon are at risk of death _____

- a. while they feed.
- b. while they rest.
- c. while they spawn.
- d. while they breathe.



3. The most important threat that salmon suffer is _____

- a. uncontrolled fishing by the human being.
- b. being attack by a predator.
- c. climate change.
- d. All the answers are correct.

4. Not all people can afford to eat wild salmon because _____

- a. they are difficult to fish.
- b. they are very expensive.
- c. it is illegal to fish for them.
- d. they only exist in some regions of the Atlantic.



5. Spawning means _____

- a. moving from side to side to get a better home.
- b. building a home where fish can live in better conditions.
- c. depositing eggs to create future fish.
- d. climbing waterfalls against the current.

Name _____

Date _____

THE SALMON



6. It is important to have salmon farms because _____
- a. they protect baby salmon and its availability for humans to eat.
 - b. the rivers are contaminated, and salmon die from the toxicity.
 - c. it makes a lot of money for the government of the country.
 - d. without them, we would only have wild salmon which are not good for human consumption.
7. Many environmental associations protect salmon because _____
- a. they are interested in researching the life of salmon.
 - b. they want salmon to live for their own consumption.
 - c. they want to prevent their disappearance in some areas of the world.
 - d. they don't want salmon to change its habitat.
8. How many salmon are born from the same female in each spawning?
- a. Approximately two thousand salmon at a time.
 - b. It depends on how many survive spawning, but less than two thousand.
 - c. More than two thousand salmon are always born at the same time.
 - d. It is not known exactly, but it is believed that about five thousand.
9. Salmon skin color depends on the temperature of the water.
- a. True
 - b. False
10. Because of echolocation, _____
- a. salmon has a high content of vitamins and minerals.
 - b. salmon is high protein and omega 3 content.
 - c. salmon gets its hardness and elasticity.
 - d. All answers are false.

