

# SALMON GUEST: FISH BIOLOGIST

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*Students develop questions about salmon anatomy, behavior, and habitat and put them to a fish biologist.*

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Build on what students have learned about salmon life cycle and habitat.
- Practice listening skills.
- Practice writing to thank a guest.
- Demonstrate that people in the community are willing to help students learn.

## PREPARATION

1. Identify and schedule a professional fish biologist or well-informed amateur fish biologist willing to come to the classroom to answer student questions. See below for advice.
2. Get sufficient background information to introduce the biologist and outline what AV equipment you have available. Provide basic information about your class.
3. Decide if students will ask questions in turn or raise their hands at random.

## SESSION 1

1. Tell your students who will be coming and when, then guide them in developing questions to pose about salmon anatomy, behavior, habitat, or functions in the natural environment.
2. Brainstorm respectful hospitality and listening skills.

## SESSION 2

1. Refresh hospitality and listening skills just prior to your guest's arrival.
2. During your guest's presentation, intercede, as needed, to keep questioning on track.
3. After your guest leaves, lead students in writing thank-you notes to mail or deliver. Encourage them to tell the guest one thing they learned and what they especially liked hearing about. Share with the class as time allows.

## NOTES

Your guest might be someone who works for a fish hatchery or a retail aquarium shop or someone active in a fish advocacy group (such as the Wild Fish Conservancy). Knowledge of salmon AND the ability to engage students are essential qualities. If you have difficulty finding someone, contact your area Salmon in the Schools coordinator for help.

You might schedule this activity while student teams are researching their salmon presentations so that they can use the speaker as a resource.

### STANDARDS

Environment & Sustainability  
Life Science  
Writing  
Communication

### THEME

Salmon

### GRADES

4 - 5

### TIME

Session 1: 10 mins.

Session 2: 40 mins.