

SALMON PRESENTATIONS

Students work in teams to develop a presentation around a salmon question, then present to the class.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Gain experience in selecting and researching a topic.
- Gain experience in using media and presentation skills to convey information.
- Gain experience in working effectively as a team to research, organize, and present information.
- Practice giving positive feedback.

PREPARATION

1. Divide the class into teams of 3-4 students each, depending on class size and how much time you can devote to team presentations (figure 10 minutes per presentation and critique).
2. Develop a list of salmon questions to "prime the pump." Students should be able to find answers in the resources available to them and develop a five-minute presentation out of what they find. Your list might include the following:
 - How does the number of eggs a female coho might lay compare to other types of salmon?
 - What are habitat factors that a female salmon looks for when deciding where to dig her redd?
 - How do Atlantic salmon differ from Pacific salmon?
 - What are the pros and cons of raising salmon in fish farms?
 - How do chemicals from cars and airplanes get into creeks, lakes, and Puget Sound?
3. Develop a list of resources that teams might use to research answers to their questions. It might include the following:
 - Books from the classroom, school library, or community library
 - Internet sites
 - Outside experts (family member, school volunteer, guest speaker).
4. Develop expectations for the presentations. They might include the following:
 - At least four minutes and no more than five minutes in length
 - Not every team member need speak but every team member must help research and organize the presentation
 - Each team chooses its media (speakers, photos, charts, drawings)
 - Include an all-class critique of what was positive about each presentation and one thing to improve.

SESSION 1

1. Outline the project to your students, identify the teams, and brief them on the schedule.
2. Lead the class in brainstorming questions and resources.
3. Move students into teams and set them to work researching and organizing their presentations.

SESSIONS 2 and 3

1. Hear each presentation and lead the class in critiquing it.
2. When finished, lead the class in discussing the value of the project.

NOTE

You may need an additional session for teams to research and organize.

STANDARDS Environment & Sustainability Communication
THEME Salmon
GRADES 4 - 5
TIME Session 1: 40 mins. Session 2: 40 mins. Session 3: 40 mins.