

SUSTAINABILITY & STEWARDSHIP

Students explore ecosystem sustainability and how human actions can affect it in negative and positive ways.

GRADE

5th

NEXT GENERATION

ESS3-1

TIME

50-60 minutes

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand what factors contribute to sustainability in a healthy ecosystem.
- Understand how human actions can degrade an ecosystem and how responsible stewardship can improve it.
- Gain experience in asking critical questions.

PREPARATION

1. Preview the two videos.
2. Cue the first video on your overhead projector's computer and have the address for the second close at hand.

WHAT TO DO

1. Show the video *Salmon Story* (6.49 mins.) at www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-6CuvZdy14, then engage students in discussing what they heard and saw about salmon sustainability. Possible questions to pose:
 - What does "sustainability" mean?
 - What did you see in the video or what did you already know that can affect sustainability?
 - In the video, how do you see sustainability issues applying to how many salmon we have now versus years ago?
 - One of the narrators lists things he's never known, such as huge runs of salmon or the sky filled with birds. Can you add to his list - things that used to be common in the environment but no longer are?
 - What factors other than human action might affect sustainability?
 - What human actions can degrade an ecosystem and reduce the sustainability of species?
2. Show the video *Lost and (Puget) Sound* (27.37 mins.) at <https://vimeo.com/23283018>, then engage with students in discussing what they heard and saw about stormwater pollution and water-quality stewardship. Possible questions to pose:
 - What is a watershed?
 - What watershed are we in?
 - What larger watershed are we in?
 - What does "water quality" mean?
 - What does "impervious" mean?
 - What impervious surfaces can you name?
 - What three ways does the video emphasize that people pollute Puget Sound?
 - What additional ways can you name?
3. Engage students in defining "stewardship" and what actions they and their families might take to improve water quality in Puget Sound.

NOTE

Consider presenting this lesson shortly before your salmon need to sustain themselves in the wild.