

Lesson 5: Silver, Swimming Salmon

Episode(s) to watch:

- Month 4 Episode 5 - "S" is for Silver, Swimming Salmon

Overview:

Salmon are really important here in Alaska. They are a vital part of the diets, art, and culture of many people in Alaska. Some Alaska Native communities have subsisted upon salmon for thousands and thousands of years! Salmon have a unique lifecycle that makes them important to many different ecosystems. Salmon are born in freshwater streams where they spend the first couple months of their life. They start out as alevin with a yolk sac that feed them as they hide under rocks and plants until they are big enough to start hunting for their own food. They then move into a special habitat called an estuary, which is an area where the fresh water from the river meets the salty water from the ocean. Here they are called smolts. Their bodies change to be able to survive in the salty ocean water. Once they are ready, they move out to the open ocean. When it is eventually time for them to reproduce, they swim back to their home river and then become food and nutrients to many different animals and the surrounding forest and river ecosystems!

Materials:

- Paper cut outs of salmon
- White crayons
- Watercolor paint
- Scissors

Activity:

Build an obstacle course and role play as a salmon trying to get back to their home river! (e.g., Run along yoga mats or build a path with sticks, crawl through a hula hoop, etc)

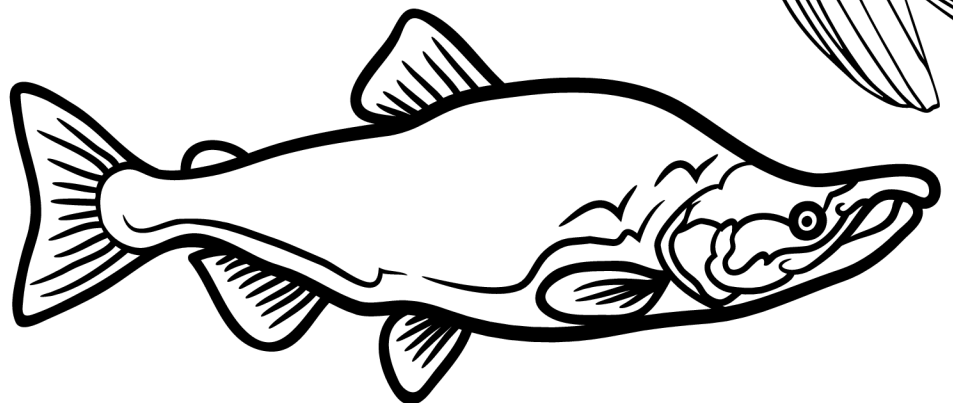
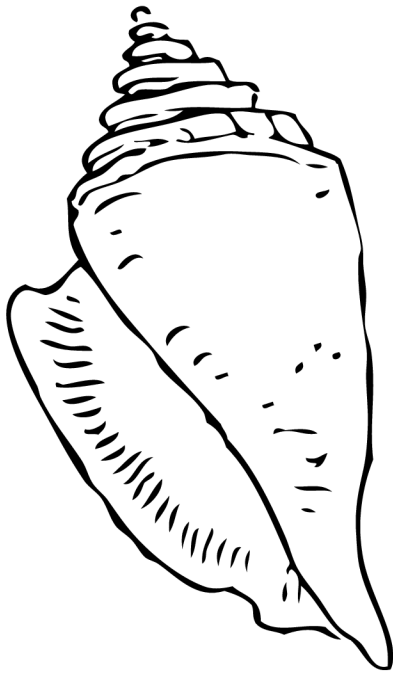
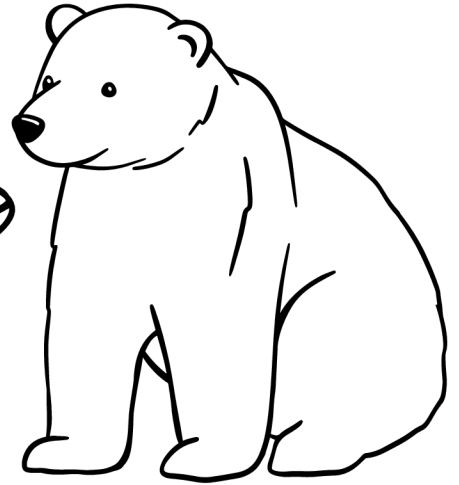
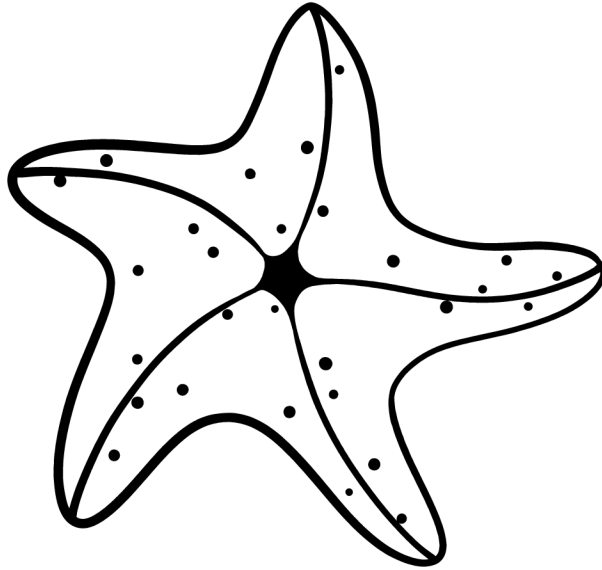
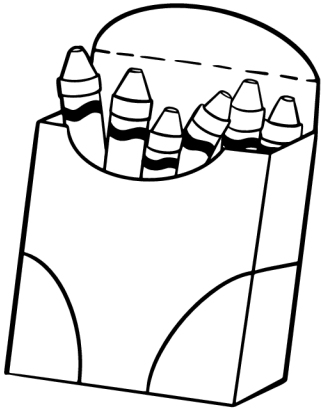
Craft:

Cut out a salmon shape then draw designs with a white crayon. Paint all over the fish and see the beautiful patterns.



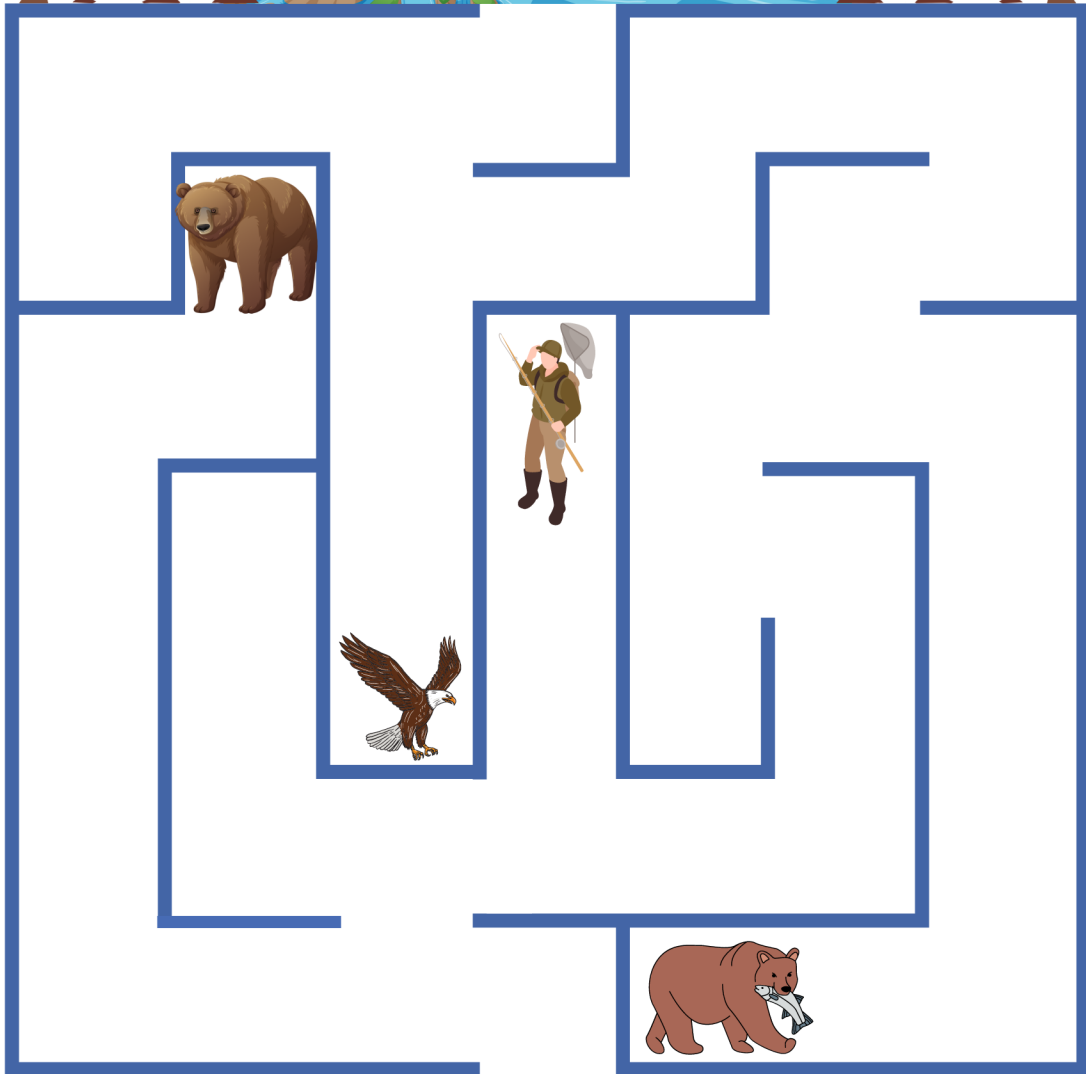
THE LETTER 'S'

COLOR ALL THE OBJECTS THAT START WITH THE LETTER 'S'

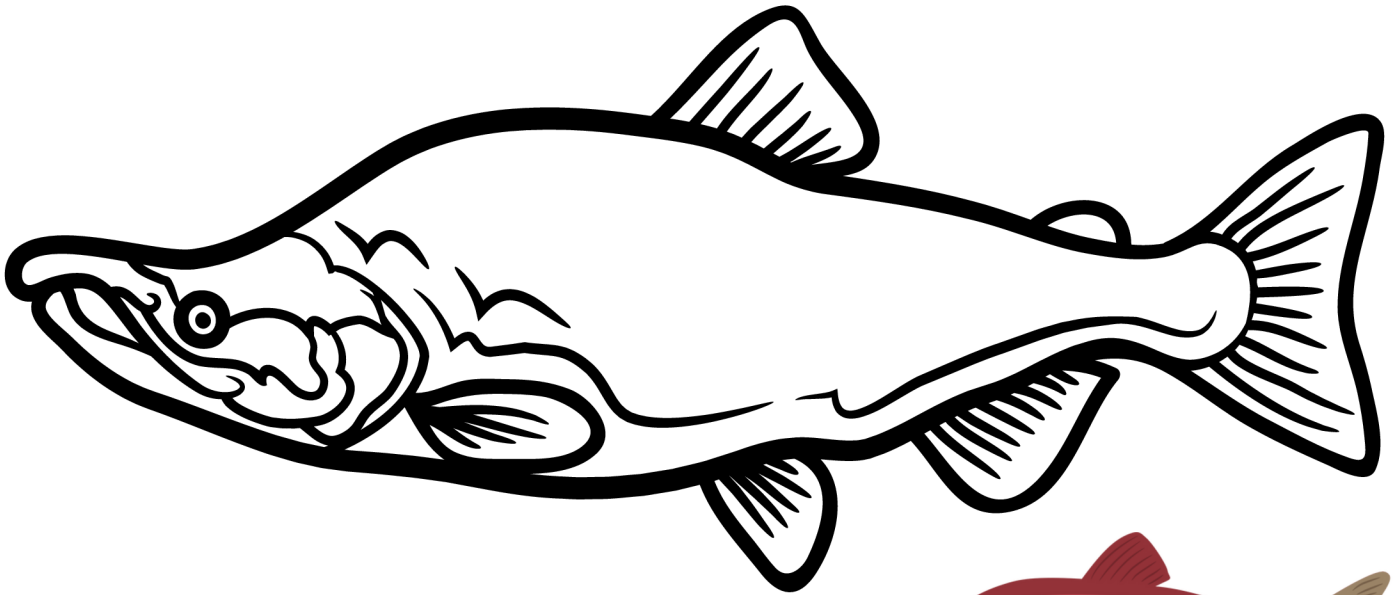


SALMON MAZE

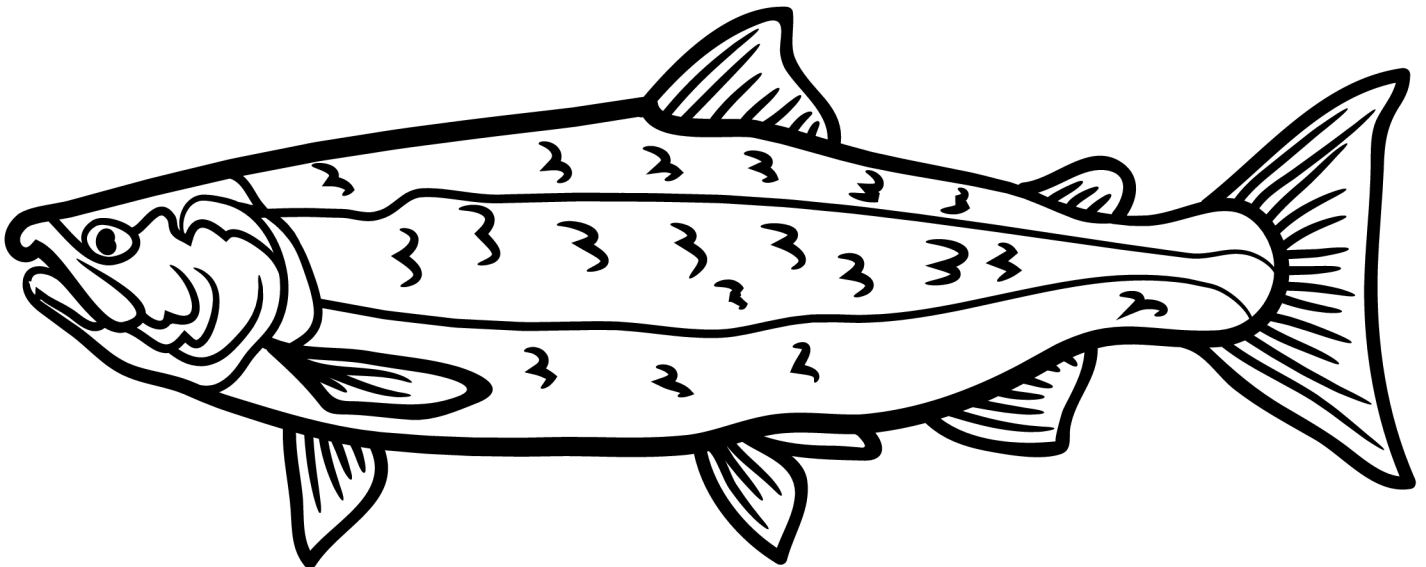
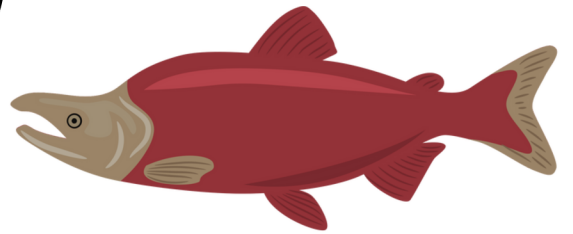
Help the salmon travel from the ocean, back to the lake!



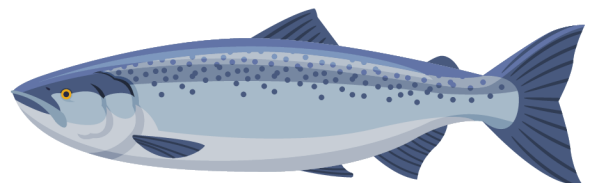
SOCKEYE / RED SALMON



OPTIONAL: COLOR THE SALMON TO BE ITS
ADULT / SPAWNING COLORS

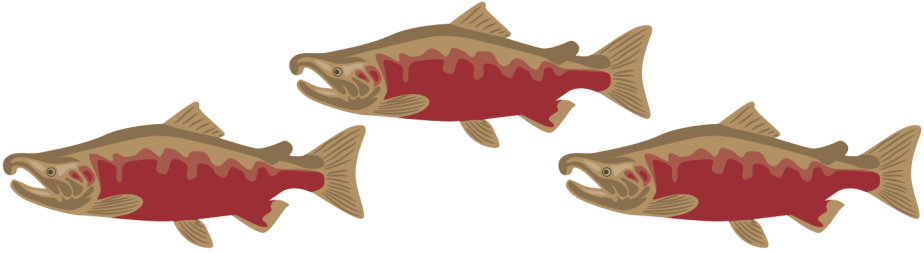

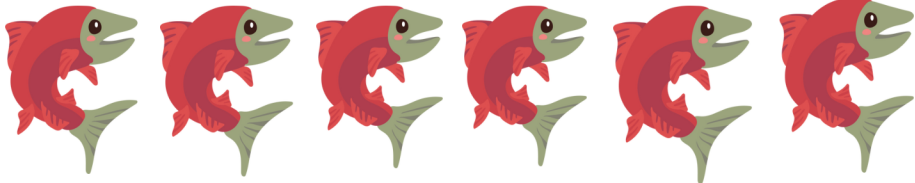
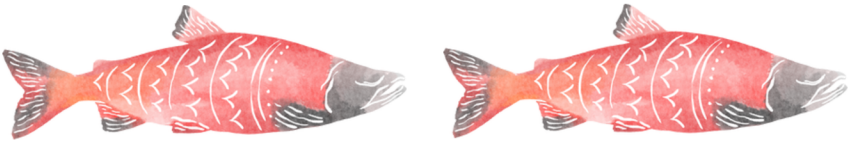

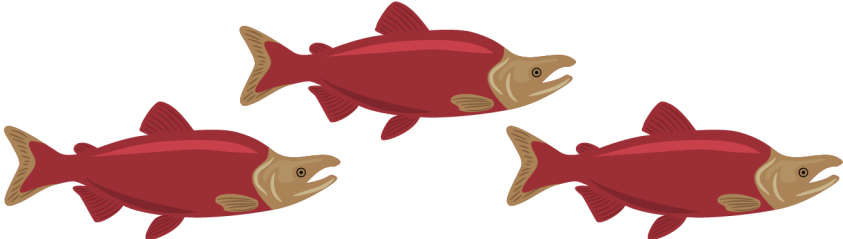


OPTIONAL: COLOR THE SALMON TO BE ITS
ADULT OPEN OCEAN COLORS



HOW MANY SALMON?

Count the salmon and write the numbers (1-10) in the boxes.

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