



Lesson plan for grades 3-5

Animal birthday party planning



Let's Plan a Hatchday Party for Chinook Salmon, Grade 3

Name: _____

Date: _____

These are Chinook salmon. They live at the Seattle Aquarium. Their hatchdays range from early to late spring. Please help us to celebrate these wonderful animals.



We will be researching what Chinook Salmon need to stay alive and be healthy. Our research will help us to design the perfect hatchday celebration for them. After that we will make them a hatchday card.

Background Questions

There are no right or wrong answers here. This is to help us start brainstorming and thinking deeply about birthdays and hatchdays.

What is a birthday?

Do you have a favorite way to celebrate your birthday?

What are some ways you have seen people celebrate birthdays?

Draw a doodle of a baby animal you have seen before.

Research Resources

Chinook Salmon are called spawners. That means they do not grow babies inside their bodies. They swim upstream in late summer and early fall to lay eggs. The salmon use their strong tails to build a nest out of riverbed gravel. This rocky nest is called a “redd” and the eggs will grow there for 12 weeks. Each Chinook salmon can lay up to 14,000 eggs. (That’s a lot of siblings!) All of the eggs in the redd will hatch around the same time so they will all have hatchdays in spring!

After they hatch, baby Chinook salmon live in the stream they hatched from for a few months. As they get older they will start eating lots of insects until they grow big enough to start migrating downstream toward the ocean. The young salmon stay with their group for protection from predators. As they grow older, they will move into the big open ocean. They will live in the ocean for 4—5 years, eating smaller fish and getting stronger for a long trip back upriver.

The adult salmon will travel as a group back to the same rivers where they hatched. This migration happens from late summer to early fall. Many local indigenous groups celebrate the return of the salmon. This is called salmon homecoming. When they return to the rivers and streams, the salmon will build new nests, spawn, and lay their eggs. After the salmon spawn, they die. As their bodies break down, the ocean nutrients are returned to the river and forest ecosystems, giving new life to their babies and the future generations of salmon.

Research Questions

From the resources available to you, try and find the answers to all of these questions. These answers will help you to plan the perfect hatchday party for Chinook salmon that is safe and healthy for them while still being fun!

How long do Chinook salmon live?

Years

Do Chinook salmon hatch from eggs?

yes

no

Do Chinook salmon do anything that you find interesting or helpful?

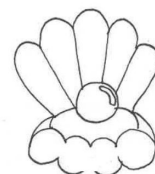
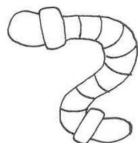
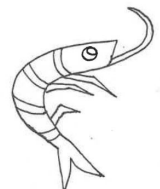
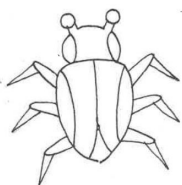
Do Chinook salmon live alone?

yes

no

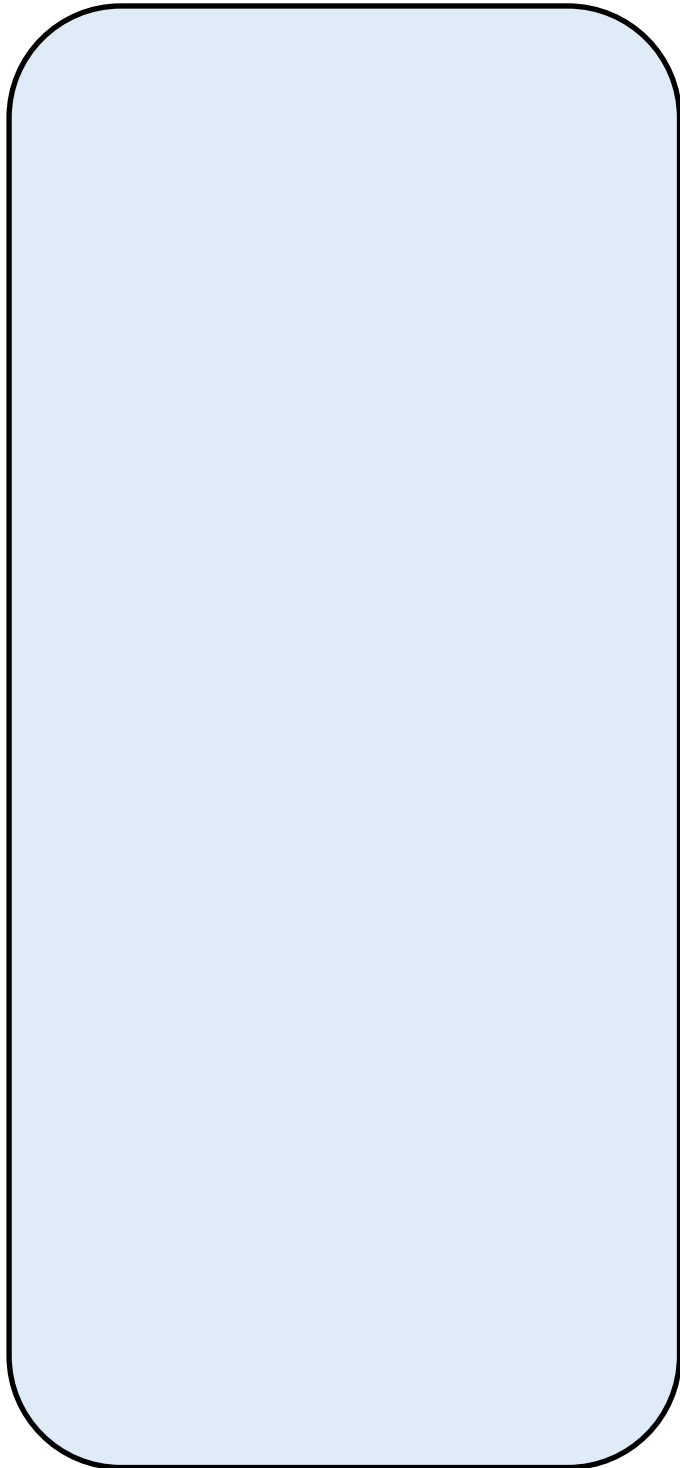
Where do Chinook salmon live?

What do Chinook Salmon eat? Circle the correct foods.

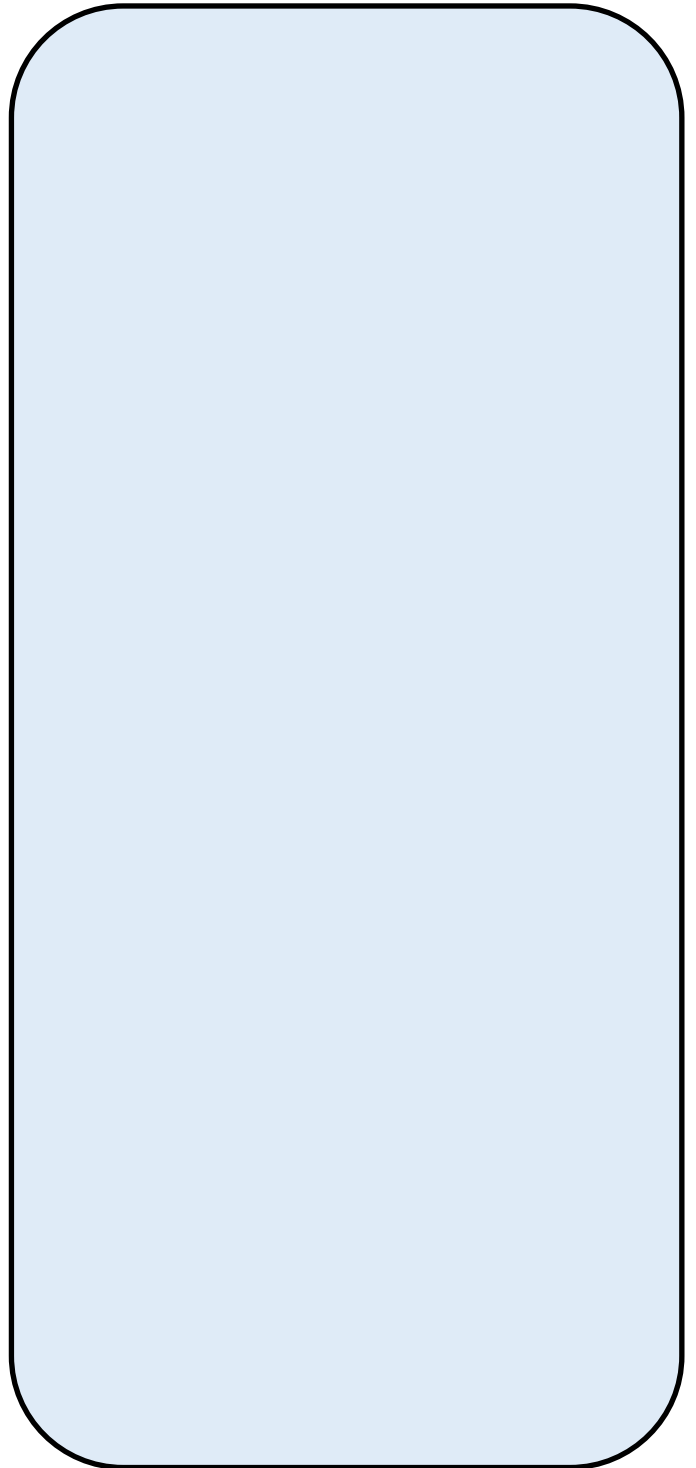


Brainstorming the Hatchday!

Make a list of what would be included in your perfect birthday.



Make a list of what you think could be included in the perfect hatchday for Chinook salmon. Remember to use your research to come up with ideas.



Draw the Perfect Hatchday!

Use the list you created to draw the perfect hatchday for Chinook salmon.

