

# SALMON IN THE CLASSROOM

## Tokay students reflect on Salmon in the Classroom project

TOKAY HIGH SCHOOL

The salmon cycle includes seven stages: egg, alevins, fry, parr, smolt, adult, and kelt. Salmon live in both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, as well as the Great Lakes and other land-locked lakes. They are born in fresh water, migrate to the ocean, then return to fresh water to reproduce. Salmon are important prey for many species, including critically endangered southern resident orcas, and they are significant to the culture of First Nations and to the economy of the West Coast. Salmon are also indicators of healthy river and marine ecosystem; as habitats degrade and disappear, so do salmon, and as salmon disappear, the

quality of the ecosystem decreases as well, since salmon are an important source of nutrients. And also I learned that different temperatures can show you how fast they will hatch.  
— Jesus Bobadilla

I learned that when the fish are at the hatchery they keep the fish separated by sizes, like really tiny ones and medium ones and the large ones. The salmon fit into our biology topic because it showed how they started from one cell into a salmon fish. It did help me better understand it because it helped me see how they were developing, like when they were hatched already and they still had the yoke.  
— Elisa Gonzalez

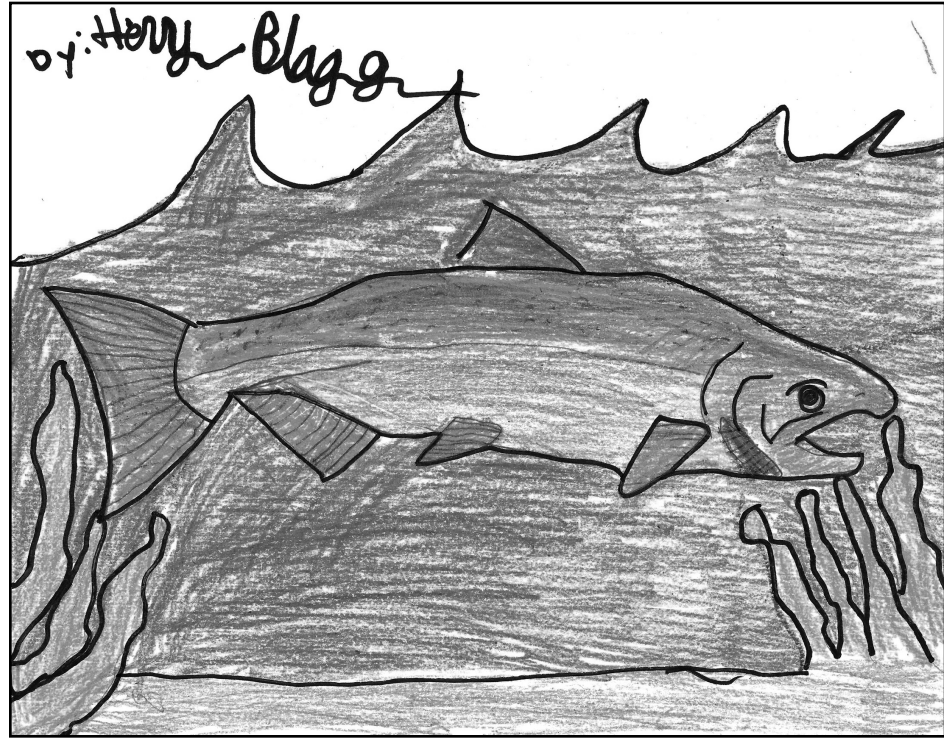
I learned that the life cycle of a salmon is not weird, but not what people think of it as. Like a mother of a salmon can have 5,000 eggs and only five of her eggs would live, which I think is honestly crazy. Also, it's crazy that people keep the life cycle going by taking eggs out of a female salmon and squeezing sperm on them. I think it's weird, but it's a way of us keeping their lifecycle going since we took their habitat by creating the dam. The way I think of it, salmon help us learn a lot about mitosis because of the way they start from an egg to a fish. I know you're probably thinking that we can just do that with a chicken egg, but you really can't, because chicken and salmon are different. A

chicken egg is white and covered, but salmon are orange and a little bit clear so you can see how they develop into a little fish. The salmon really helped me understand a little bit more about them and how mitosis works.  
— Alyssa Rivera

A few things that I have learned about the baby salmon and how they develop in a cycle are that they first start out as a red egg then to alevins, fry, parr, smolt, adult, and kelt. This is the entire cycle of salmon. My teacher, Mrs. Starr, was given lots of baby salmon eggs to grow in her classroom. They grew very quickly, and then we had to release them. On Tuesday, March 3, a large group of kids

from her biology classes all got together to meet on a bus to go on a field trip to the fish hatchery to release the fish.  
— Robert Lydon

I learned that the salmon start off as eggs then grow to be an adult salmon. Their bodies can learn to live in fresh water and salt water. We learned in class that some salmon are born in the Sacramento River and travel all the way to the ocean into saltwater. The salmon helped me understand how they are born in one place and can travel so many miles in one lifetime. Some fish don't make it back to spawn because they get caught by fishermen and eaten.  
— Jonathan Solis



HENRY BLAGG/LOCKEFORD SCHOOL

### Learning about salmon at Lockeford School

By Henry Blagg  
LOCKEFORD SCHOOL

My favorite part of second grade was when we did the salmon project. First, we learned about salmon and the life cycle. Then, we went on a field trip to the hatchery. We saw fish and got to feed them. We also saw the salmon in the river. The people at the hatchery showed us the inside of the salmon and the eggs and milt. After that, they came to deliver our eggs to our classroom. There were 35 eggs. We got to watch them until they hatched. We watched the alevin grow in the fish tank. Then, we took them to the Mokelumne River and released them. I learned a lot about fish.

### Fascinating facts about salmon

By Alexander Arreola Garcia  
HERITAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Do you want to learn about salmon? Then here are some awesome facts that you may not have known. Did you know that salmon have teeth in their tongue? Terrifying isn't it? Additionally, salmon have fins that allow them to swim in rivers and in the ocean. The dorsal fin keeps the salmon upright. The other fins are used for steering and

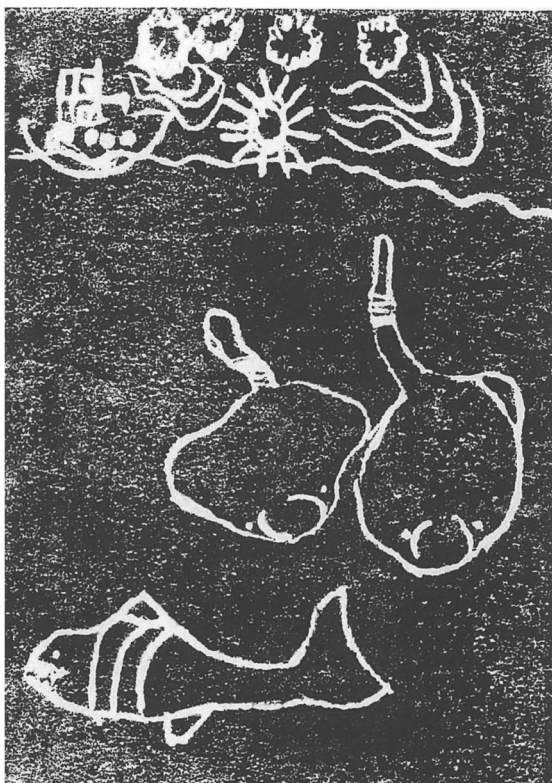
balance. Also, it is not an easy life for salmon. Only about 2% of salmon babies will make it to adulthood. Once salmon are ready to spawn, they return to where they were born. After spawning, the salmon die. If you like eating fish, salmon is a very healthy option. Salmon has protein and many vitamins. If you haven't tried it before, you should!



SAMUEL JEWELL/LOCKEFORD SCHOOL

#### Alevin Haiku

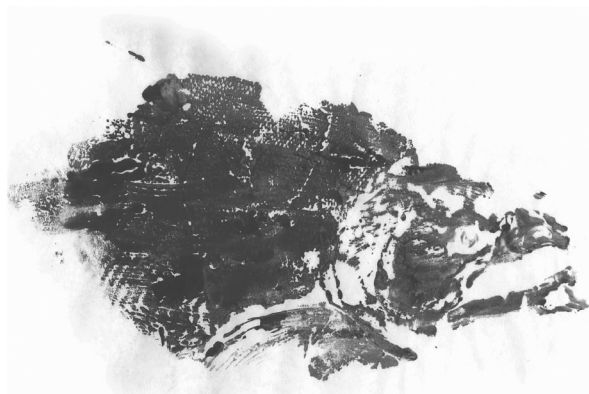
Swimming in water  
With a hanging small yolk sac  
These are Alevin



YAHIR GOMEZ/HERITAGE SCHOOL

#### Haiku

Sam the salmon saw  
Something bad that made her mad  
No, it was people!



MAX HERNANDEZ/HERITAGE SCHOOL

#### Cinquain

Alevin  
Small, Weird  
Calming, Growing, Hiding  
A confused looking animal  
Salmon



ESTEVAN MARTINEZ/HERITAGE SCHOOL

### Raising salmon eggs at Heritage Elementary School

By Nafees Khan  
HERITAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At our school this year, one class raised baby salmon. Once they were ready to be released, both fifth-grade classes got to go to the Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery to

release the baby fish into the river. I learned all about the life cycle of a salmon. For example, once salmon are old enough they swim out to the ocean. I also learned that many salmon never make it to the ocean because there are so many predators that want to eat. The

salmon that do not get eaten get very big very fast because they eat a lot of food. It was really fun to release the salmon and learn about their life cycle. My favorite part was watching them splash as they swam away.

The students of Heritage, Elkhorn, Lakewood, Lockeford, Reese and Vinewood elementary schools, Lodi, Millwood and Aspire Benjamin Holt middle schools, Lodi and Tokay high schools, Turner Academy and San Joaquin Delta College would like to thank the following sponsors for their support:

