

Activity 4: Salmon Habitat Bag

**Ages:**

K-12

Time:

5-10 minutes

State Essential Learning Requirements

Science: 1.2

Communication: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5

**Directions :**

You can introduce this activity by taking out the items one by one and asking the whole group what they think each item represents for salmon and its habitat, and why. Add to each response what you know about how each relates to salmon habitat.

The bag contains items that represent the important features of salmon habitat: Group the students and give each group an item instructing them to offer an explanation for what the item represents for salmon and its habitat.

Overview:

The audience will decide what each item in the Salmon Habitat Bag represents for salmon and its habitat.

Objective:

- To describe what habitat is important for the survival of salmon

Critical Questions Addressed:

1. Value
2. Endangered

Materials:

Activity Packet # 4. Trunk provides a "Salmon Habitat Bag" with plastic insect, branches, gravel, water globe, toy bear or bald eagle, fence, tree cross-section, star.

- a plastic insect representing food,
- a bush pile representing large woody debris for in-stream structures providing cover
- clean gravel (for pink, coho, sockeye redds)
- cobble (for Chinook redds) (mixture of gravel and cobble for chum);
- an eagle or bear representing natural predators;
- snow globe with otters and kelp representing the estuarine phase and pollution problems.
- plastic fence model representing keeping large animals out of streams
- tree ring representing the rings formed on scales as the salmon grows
- star representing one form of navigation used by salmon to return to the streams of their birth.
- room odorizer packet representing chemical sensing used by salmon to find streams of their birth.

The students pass these items around while the facilitator talks about what salmon need and how we can make sure they get it. This is a good activity to use for younger students.

Extensions:

- Ask students to collect items for their own salmon habitat bag (up to 6 items) and describe to their group what each item represents. Ask the students to describe their Salmon Habitat Bag and its contents to their family.



Salmon Habitat Bag Student Worksheet

Collect items for your own salmon habitat bag (at least 6 items) and describe to your group what each item represents. Describe your Salmon Habitat Bag and its contents to your family.

You are going to teach others about salmon and their habitat.

Fill out the chart below and tell what the items for your Salmon Habitat Bag mean.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)
- 8)
- 9)
- 10)

Reflections:

Does this help you remember what is important for salmon to survive?

What item representing salmon habitat was your favorite in the class and why.