



# Salmon Life Cycle

Fill in the blanks below with words from this box:

hatches	gravel	egg
alevin	live	saltwater
species	estuary	fry
shrimp and fish	spawning	smolts
fertilize	rapidly	redd
avoid	leap	adult
smell	cycle	nature

## A Freshwater Start

The life of a salmon begins as an \_\_\_\_\_ buried in \_\_\_\_\_ at the bottom of a stream. After the egg \_\_\_\_\_, the tiny fish with its yolk sac still attached lives in the gravel. This tiny fish with a yolk sac is called an \_\_\_\_\_. The yolk sac nourishes the alevin. After the yolk sac is absorbed, the salmon emerges from the gravel as a \_\_\_\_\_ and starts to catch \_\_\_\_\_ prey.

## Journey to the Sea

Some \_\_\_\_\_ of salmon head directly to the sea, while other species live in freshwater for a while. As salmon move to the sea they have to get used to the \_\_\_\_\_. The best place to do this is in an \_\_\_\_\_, which is a place where the freshwater rivers and streams meet the saltwater ocean. Salmon that are getting ready to live in saltwater are called \_\_\_\_\_. Once in the ocean, the salmon grows \_\_\_\_\_ because there are plenty of \_\_\_\_\_ to eat.

## The Return Home

Then after spending several years in the ocean the \_\_\_\_\_ salmon head back to the streams where they were born. How they get there is a wonder of \_\_\_\_\_, Scientists think they use their sense of \_\_\_\_\_.



The \_\_\_\_\_ salmon face many obstacles. They have to \_\_\_\_\_ over waterfalls and \_\_\_\_\_ animals such as bears. When they reach a nice gravel bed, females use their tails to make a nest, called a \_\_\_\_\_ where they lay their eggs. The males \_\_\_\_\_ the eggs and the \_\_\_\_\_ begins again.