

GLOSSARY

For primary grades (K to 3)

Note: These definitions refer to words in the context in which they are used in the Alaska Salmon in the Classroom Curriculum materials. They may have other meanings in other contexts.

adipose fin	— a small boneless fin on a salmon's back, near the tail
adult	— fully grown; a salmon ready to return to its natal stream
air	— the invisible substance people and animals breathe
alevin	— a salmon that has just hatched from the egg, with the yolk still attached
anal fin	— a fin on a fish's belly near the tail
bean seed	— a small living object from which a bean plant can grow
body	— the main part of a person or animal
camouflage	— colors that make an animal hard to see
city	— a place where many people live
dam	— a wall that holds back water in a stream or lake
dorsal fin	— a fin on a fish's back
egg	— a rounded object, laid by fish and some other animals, in which the young begin to grow
egg wall	— the outer part of an egg
egg white	— the clear liquid inside an egg
embryo	— a very young salmon in the egg
estuary	— a place where a river joins the sea
eyes	— the part of the body used for seeing
factory	— a building where people use machines to make things
female	— a salmon that produces eggs
fertilize	— to make eggs ready to grow
fin	— the part of a fish's body which it moves to balance and move around
fish	— an animal with bones and fins that lives in water
fisher	— someone who catches fish
fishing boat	— a boat used to catch fish
food	— what a fish eats to live and grow
fresh water	— water with no salt in it

fry (plural: fry)	— a young salmon that can swim freely in a stream or lake
garbage	— something that someone has thrown away
gill	— the part of a fish's body which it uses to breathe under water
gravel	— a mixture of pebbles and rocks
hatch	— when a salmon wiggles out of the egg
hazard	— a danger
head	— the front part of a fish's body, with the mouth, eyes and gills
krill	— tiny animals that live in the sea
lateral line	— the part of a fish's body in a line along its side that it uses to feel
leaf	— the flat green part that grows on a plant
life cycle	— all the stages in a plant or animal's life
log	— the trunk of a tree that has been cut down
male	— a salmon that produces milt to fertilize eggs
mouth	— the part of a fish's body which it uses to take in food and water
natal stream	— the stream where a salmon was born
nostril	— the part of a fish's body which it uses to smell the water
ocean	— the body of salt water that covers most of the earth
oxygen	— a gas which plants and animals need to breathe
parr marks	— dark up-and-down bars on the sides of salmon fry
pectoral fins	— fins on a fish's side, behind the gills
pelvic fins	— fins on a fish's belly in front of the anal fin
polluted	— air or water with waste in it
pool	— a small area of still water
predator	— an animal that catches and eats other animals
redd	— a stone nest in the gravel of a lake or stream for protecting eggs
riffle	— an uneven area in a stream that makes the water form small waves or ripples
root	— the part of a plant that grows down into the ground
salmon	— a type of fish that hatches in fresh water, swims to the ocean, then returns to its home stream or lake
salt water	— water that has salt in it, such as the sea
scales	— small, hard, flat pieces that cover a fish's body like armor

scent	— a smell
school	— a large group of fish
shell	— a hard casing that covers some animals, such as clams and snails
skin	— the soft layer that covers the bodies of animals
smolt	— a young salmon that is getting ready to enter salt water
spawn	— to produce, deposit and fertilize eggs
spawner	— a salmon that is getting ready to lay or fertilize eggs
spawning ground	— a stream or lake where salmon deposit eggs
stage	— one part of a salmon's life cycle
stem	— the part of a plant that holds the branches and leaves
stream	— water flowing in a narrow path
stream bank	— the sides of a stream
streambed	— the bottom of a stream
sustainability	— meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
sustainable development	— development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
swim bladder	— the part of a salmon's body which it can fill with air, like a balloon
tail	— the part of a fish's body which it moves from side to side to move forward
water	— the liquid that falls as rain and fills rivers and lakes
wiggle	— to move and twist from side to side
yolk	— the thick yellow part of an egg
yolk sac	— a thin bag which contains egg yolk and grows on the belly of an alevin