Salmon Route Detectives

Link related texts to build knowledge about salmon habitat.

6.DSR.D "Regularly engage in reading a series of conceptually related texts organized around topics of study to build knowledge and vocabulary (These texts should be at a range of complexity level so students can read the texts independently..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail in each text that adds to what you know about salmon habitat. Beside each underline, write a 2- to 4-word note telling what you learned.

Three Texts About Salmon

1. Text 1, A River Map: Salmon begin life in freshwater streams. A watershed is the land area where rain and snowmelt drain into the same river, lake, or ocean. On a map of the Pacific Northwest, blue lines show small creeks joining larger rivers. These connected waterways form a route from mountain streams to the sea. The map also shows dams, which can block salmon from reaching upstream places where new fish hatch and adults lay eggs. There are labels beside major barriers.

2. Text 2, A Biologist's Field Notes: Young salmon may spend months or years growing in streams before traveling downstream. Later, many species return from the ocean to the river where they began. This return trip is called migration. Biologists tag some fish with tiny transmitters, devices that send signals. The signals help researchers learn which routes salmon use and where their journeys stop. A fish ladder, a stair-step channel beside a dam, can give salmon another way upstream.

3. Text 3, A Community Report: At a stream restoration project in Washington, volunteers removed a small, unused dam and planted trees along the banks. Tree roots held soil in place, so less loose dirt washed into the water. Cooler, cleaner water gave salmon eggs a better chance to develop. After the project, scientists compared fish counts from several years. The counts did not prove that one action caused every improvement, but they helped the community decide which habitat changes to continue.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do Text 1 and Text 2 work together to explain a salmon's route?

2. Why does knowing the meaning of watershed help you understand Text 1?

3. What are two different ways people can help salmon get past a dam, according to the texts?

4. What careful conclusion can the community make from the fish counts in Text 3?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a fourth text explains how a fish ladder is tested. Write exactly 3 sentences predicting what the text could teach you. Use two facts from the three texts and include one question you would want the new text to answer.

ANSWER KEY

Salmon Route Detectives

GRADE 6 · 6.DSR.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail in each text that adds to what you know about salmon habitat. Beside each underline, write a 2- to 4-word note telling what you learned. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Text 1 and Text 2 work together to explain a salmon's route?	**Text 1 shows connected creeks and rivers leading to the sea, and Text 2 explains that salmon later return from the ocean to their starting river.**
2	Why does knowing the meaning of watershed help you understand Text 1?	**It explains that rain and snowmelt from an area drain into the same water system, helping create connected waterways.**
3	What are two different ways people can help salmon get past a dam, according to the texts?	**People can build a fish ladder beside a dam or remove an unused dam.**
4	What careful conclusion can the community make from the fish counts in Text 3?	**The habitat changes may have helped salmon, but the counts cannot prove that one action caused every improvement.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A fourth text about a fish ladder could explain whether salmon use the stair-step channel beside a dam. Since dams can block upstream routes and transmitters send signals, researchers could track tagged salmon near the ladder. I would ask whether the ladder helps more adults reach places where they lay eggs.

Accept underlined details and notes that accurately connect to salmon habitat, movement, barriers, or restoration. For the open response, accept reasonable predictions that use two passage-based facts and include one relevant question in exactly three sentences.