

Salmon Go Home

Name: _____

Read the passage. Answer the questions in complete sentences.

A sockeye salmon begins life in a freshwater stream, often far inland. After a year or two it swims downstream and out into the Pacific Ocean.

It spends most of its life at sea, growing from the length of a finger to the length of an arm. Then, after two to four years, it turns around.

The salmon swims back to the mouth of the same river it came from, and then upstream against the current, sometimes for hundreds of kilometres. It leaps waterfalls. It stops eating. Its body turns deep red.

Scientists think it finds the way partly by smell — that each stream has its own scent, learned when the fish was young. The salmon spawns in the gravel where it hatched, and dies there. Bears, eagles and the forest itself feed on what is left.

Non-fiction · 138 words

1. Where does a sockeye salmon hatch?

2. Put these in order: swims out to sea, spawns in the gravel, hatches in a stream, swims upstream.

3. How do scientists think the salmon finds its way back?

4. Why does the passage mention bears, eagles and the forest?

Salmon Go Home — Answer Key

1. In a freshwater stream, often far inland. (*Recall*)
2. Hatches in a stream, swims out to sea, swims upstream, spawns in the gravel. (*Sequence*)
3. Partly by smell — each stream has its own scent, which the fish learned when it was young. (*Recall*)
4. To show that the salmon's death feeds other living things, so the journey matters beyond the fish itself. (*Author's purpose*)