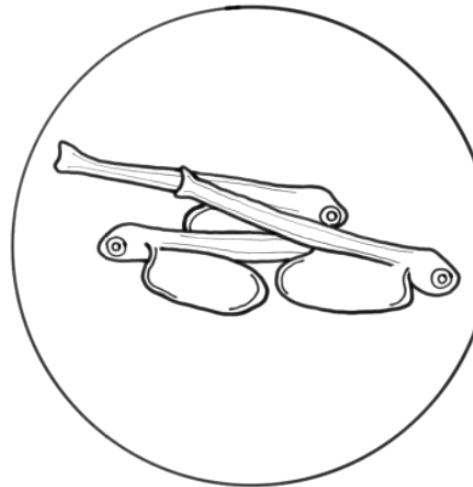
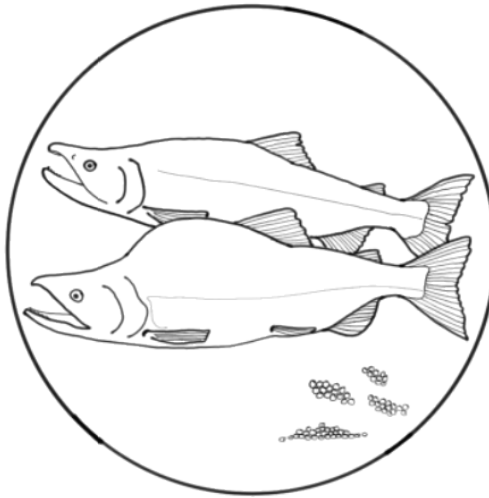
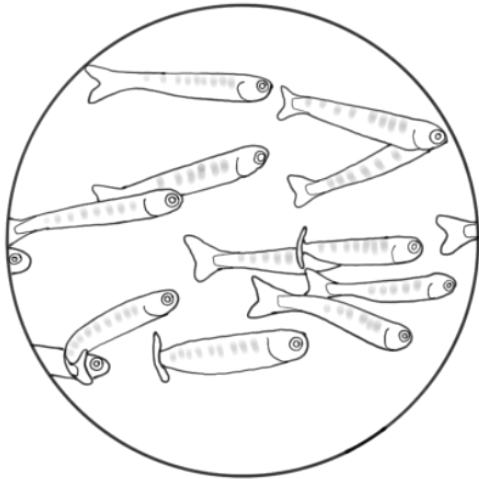
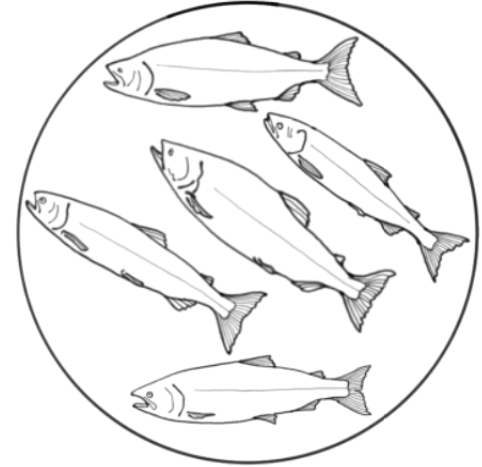
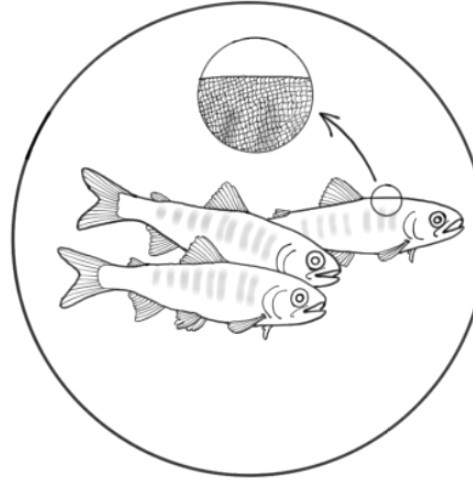
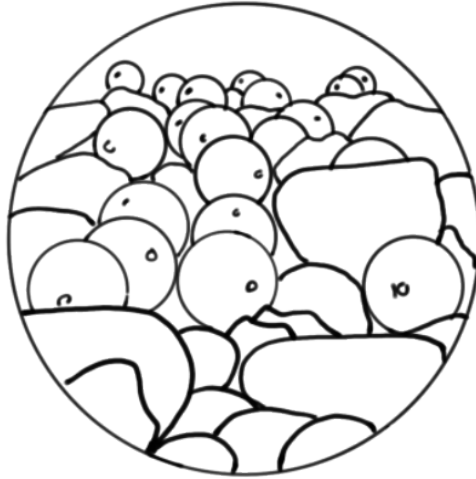


Create the salmon lifecycle

Colour in the stages of the salmon lifecycle and match them to their description. Watch out! They're in a random order.



Artwork by Amira Maddison.

Salmon lifecycle descriptions

SMOLT

Starting to adapt to the ocean in estuaries (which contain a mix of fresh and salt water), smolt are growing their scales and eating zooplankton, insects, worms, sand fleas and shrimp.

MIGRATION

When they are ready to spawn, adult salmon will return to the same riverbed where they were born, known as natal homing.

ALEVIN

Alevins hatch from eggs. The yolk sac from the egg provides them with food, sort of like a lunch sack!

DEATH

The salmon are exhausted. When they die, their bodies may quickly be eaten by other beings or they may decompose and put nutrients back into the ecosystem.

EGGS

Eggs are laid in the gravel of riverbeds during the fall. They will incubate for 2-5 months, hatching in the spring.

SPAWNER

Ready to breed, this salmon will stop eating and use their strength to swim up the fresh water river where they were born to lay or fertilize eggs.

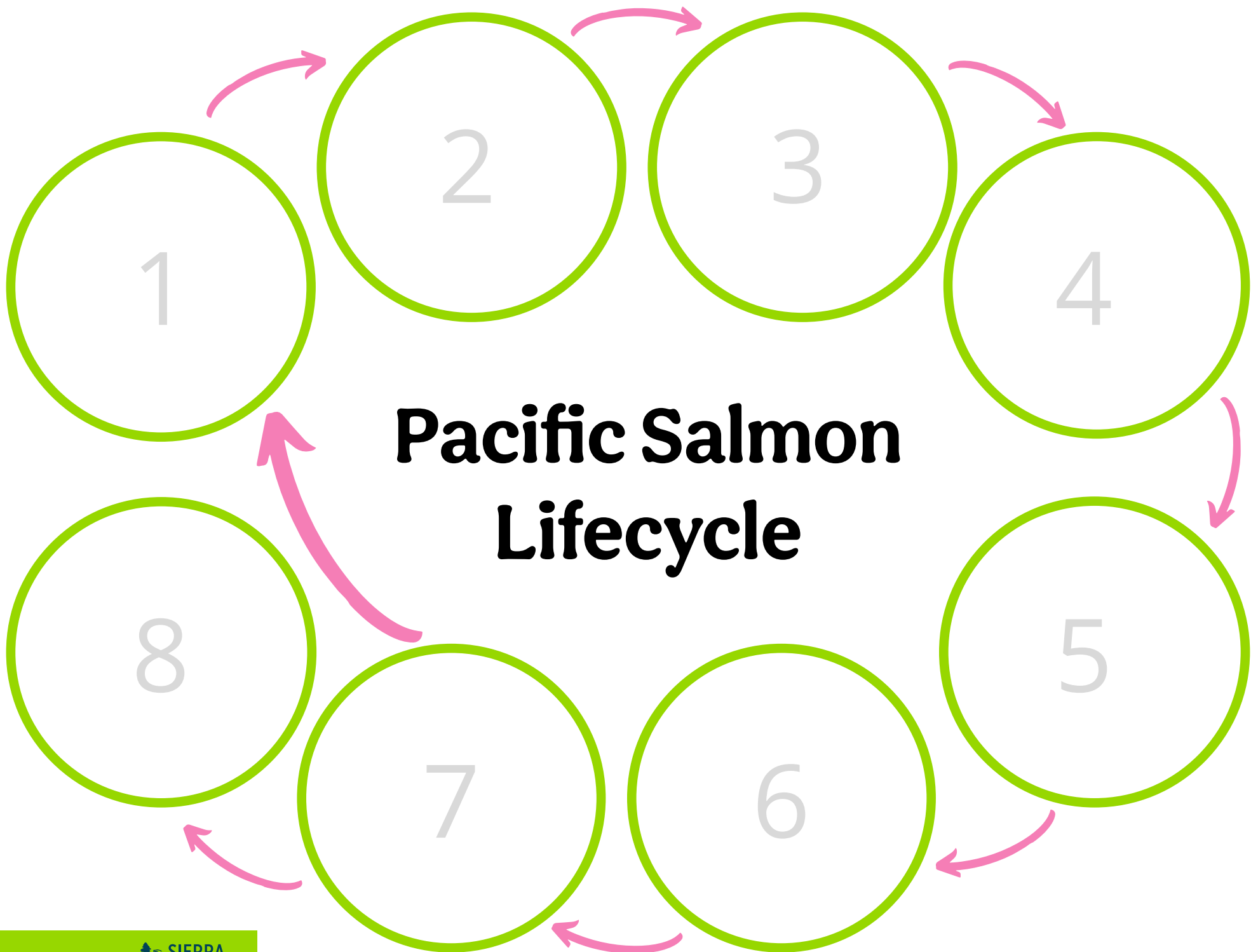
ADULT

Adult salmon are fully adapted to living in salt water. Depending on the species, they will spend between 4 months and 5 years in the ocean.

FRY

Fry start their journey downstream guided by gravity and stream flow. They search for their own food such as larvae, adult insects, fish eggs and rotting carcasses.

Pacific Salmon Lifecycle



Answer Key

