CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Sockeye Salmon

Oncorhynchus nerka

The sockeye (Oncorhynchus nerka) is the only Pacific salmon whose life cycle usually requires a lake. Fry hatch in a stream, drop down into a nursery lake and spend one to three years feeding on zoop…

Quick facts

Classification: Fish
Family: Salmonidae
Habitat: Cold freshwater rivers, lakes, and the northern Pacific Ocean
Diet: Omnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 4-6 years
Weight: 2–7 kg (4.4–15.4 lbs)
Scientific name: Oncorhynchus nerka

Did you know?

- Some sockeye salmon populations never leave freshwater and spend their entire lives in lakes—these are known as 'kokanee' salmon.
- Sockeye turn red by moving pigment out of their own muscle and into their skin, which is why spawning fish have pale, poor-quality flesh. Kokanee are…

What I learned

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