

Salmon Books and Videos

A wide variety of books about salmon are available in classroom, school, and public libraries, and many videos are available online. In response to teacher requests and recommendations, the following list attempts to sort out the best from the rest.

The books that rose to the top

- are focused on Pacific salmon species
- present accurate and complete information
- have word choices and a format that are consistent with apparent reading level
- have inviting illustrations that add to understanding.
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The videos are appealing, accurate, and complete.

We invite your recommendations at [Contact Us](#).

SALMON BOOKS, PRE - 9

Check out the following salmon books from Seattle Public Library before you decide to buy. Grade level is an estimate

* indicates available from Amazon, as are other salmon books not reviewed.

Recommended as Read-To Books and for Student Elective Reading

TITLE	AUTHOR	GRADE LEVEL	COMMENTS
First Salmon*	Roxane Beauclair Salonen	K - 4	A heartwarming story, well told & illustrated. A refreshing variation on the standard First Salmon story. The boy misses his uncle on every page; teacher will need to preview this loss & be sensitive if students take it to heart.
Salmon Creek*	Annette LeBox & Karen Reczuch	Pre - 2	Beautifully illustrated. Great for imagining being Sumi the salmon. Perfect read-to. Glossary, threats, coho life cycle, steward-ship ideas for kids in back.
Salmon Forest*	David Suzuki & Sarah Ellis	Pre - 2	Goes beyond life cycle to include how critical nutrients from salmon are & fishing for food. Spectacular illustrations. Written for Canadians so measurements are metric.
A Salmon for Simon*	Betty Waterton	K - 4	Charming, well-illustrated story having nothing to do with life cycle!
Salmon Moon*	Mark Karlins	K - 4	Charming, well-illustrated story (with a Yiddish accent!) having nothing to do with life cycle
Salmon Stream*	Carol Reed-Jones	Pre - 1	Great rhythm with rhymes & repetition. Beautiful illustrations, plus species and habitat information in back & maps of Pacific and Atlantic coverage. Teacher will need to provide a bit of explanation here & there.

Recommended for Student Elective Reading

Salmon Boy: A Legend of the Sechelt People*	Donna Joe	2 - 6	A refreshing variation on the standard Salmon Boy story. Straightforward, understandable, with bold illustrations. A few unfamiliar words that teacher will need to pronounce.
Salmon Summer*	Bruce McMillan	4 - 5	Like a video in print. Boys especially could relate to main character. Covers commercial salmon fishing by Alaska natives in realistic way. Glossary & phonetic help with strange words. Lots of photos.

Recommended for Student Research and Elective Reading

People of Salmon and Cedar*	Ron Hirschi	6 - 12	Includes salmon as part of Coast Salish culture. A reference book for student reports.
The Prince and the Salmon People*	Claire Rudolf Murphy	4 - 7	Lengthy salmon-people legend with interspersed pages of native history, salmon information, art. Beautiful drawings.
Salmon*	Ron Hirschi	5 - 9	Many details for students researching finer points about Pacific salmon. Covers habitat, threats, fishing, dams, stewardship. Glossary.
Salmon	Deborah Hodge	4 - 6	A lot of information for students researching salmon but well formatted & illustrated. Touches on more than life cycle.

'Maybe' Books With Some Merit

The Life Cycle of a Salmon*	Bobbie Kalman & Rebecca Sjonger	4 - 5	Includes threats (dams, fish farms, etc.) & stewardship. Wide range of language. Okay as a resource for student research but tries to do a lot.
Salmon*	Sylvia M. James	2 - 5	Tries to summarize both Pacific & Atlantic species. Includes threats & stewardship. Okay as a resource for student research.
Sockeye's Journey Home*	Barbara Gaines Winkelman	Pre - 1	A level of detail above basic. Nicely illustrated. Story tailored to Seattle & Cedar River fish, which limits how well students could relate.

Not Recommended

About Planet Earth	Claire Llewellyn	Pre - 2	Only one spread that touches on salmon.
Adventures of Riley: Survival of the Salmon	Amanda Lumrey & Laura Hurwitz	3 - 5	Brightly illustrated for young children but text is advanced & lots of information is crammed in. Library copy falling apart.
The Life Cycle of a Salmon	Ruth Thomson	2 - 4	Slipshod. Big type but also big words. Tries to cover both Atlantic & Pacific salmon.
Magic Schoolbus Goes Upstream	Compilation	K-2	More fantasy than fact.
Migrating With the Salmon	Thessaly Catt	4 - 5	Tries to cover the waterfront.
The Salmon	Sabrina Crewe	3 - 5	A hodgepodge. Undefined grade range (large type but big words). Other books do it much better.
Swimming Salmon	Kathleen Martin-James	K - 1	Small format. Other books cover life cycle better.
And There Was Salmon	Wilson Kimsey Peery	8 - 12	A collection of native myths dating from 1949, only one about salmon.

ON-LINE SALMON VIDEOS, PRE - 2

THE SALMON SONG 0:56 seconds

www.youtube.com/watch?v=RPMPMDqOdUo&feature=related

A simple, brightly colored cartoon that young children will want to see again and again. The mix of critters is unimaginable to all but the young! Show just for fun or to encourage youngsters to paint how they see their own fish.

THE STORY OF SAMMY THE SALMON 6:41 minutes

www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvsSXhDjMml&feature=related

Produced by a 2nd grader and her dad, using a mix of drawings and photos. Timing of stages is likely for Chinook and the photos are a mix of species. Speaks to dangers in freshwater and saltwater. An illustration of a salmon's growth from alevin to spawner (like time-lapse photography) is a stand-out. Narration by the child is hard to make out in places.