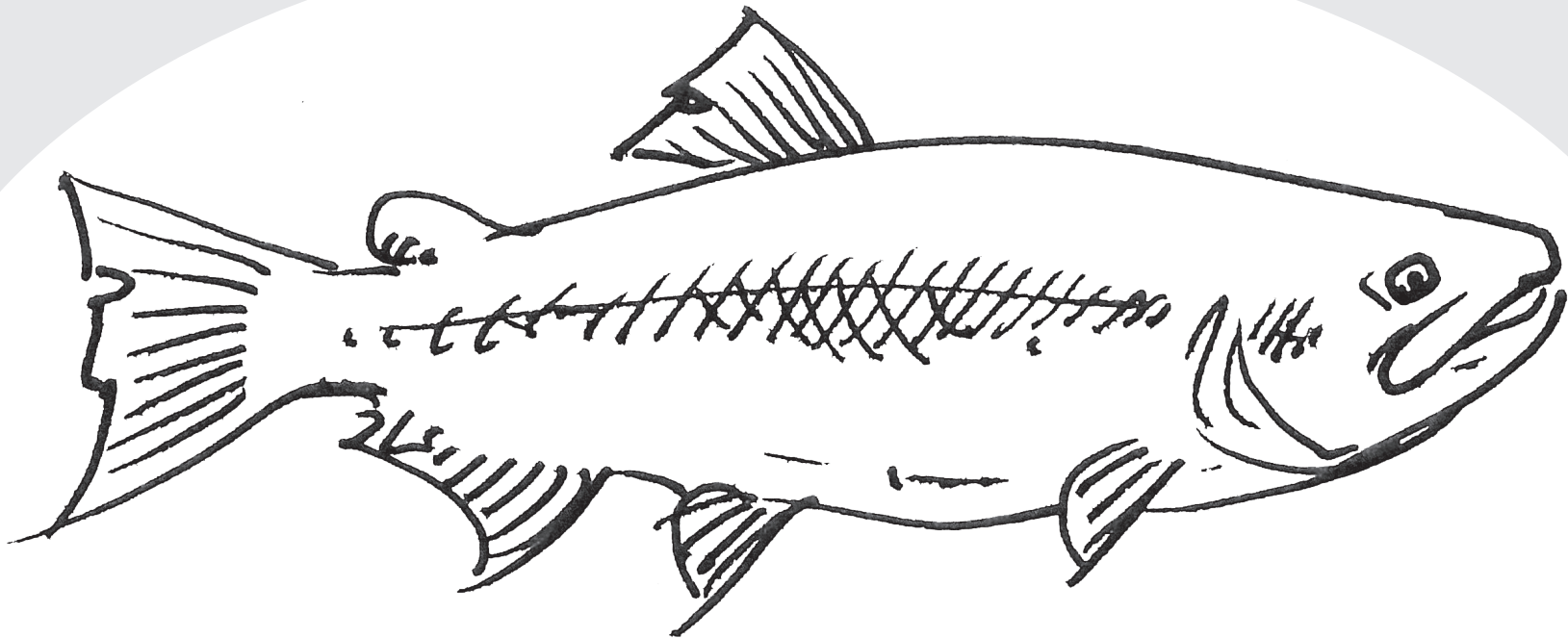


Keep Salmon Wild!

See how many colors you can use to color me. Go wild!!



www.wildsalmoncenter.org

illustration by Guido Rahr, President of Wild Salmon Center

colored by _____

True or False?

Test your wild salmon I.Q.
The results may surprise you!

The salmon's sense of smell is more keen than a dog or bear.

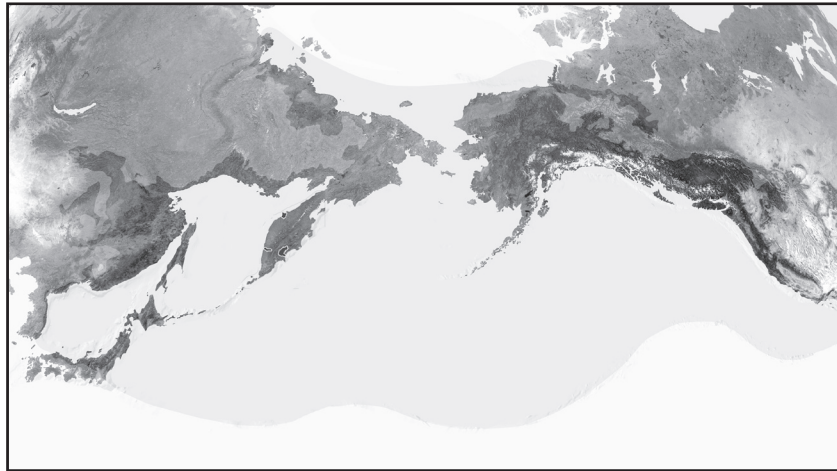
True. Salmon navigate their life journey using many environmental cues, including the scent of their home stream. They also use the earth's magnetic fields and the position of the sun in the sky to find their way.

Salmon fossils are even older than dinosaurs.

False. The oldest salmon fossil found is 50 million years old and dinosaurs lived between 65 and 160 million years ago. Just 5 to 6 million years ago, salmon had fangs, weighed over 500 pounds and were ten feet long!

Salmon can only live in fresh water.

False. Salmon and steelhead are among only a few creatures on earth that are "anadromous." What does this mean? They are born in freshwater, migrate to the ocean to grow and mature, then return to freshwater to spawn.



Color me too!

Wild salmon love to travel. See if you can name all the countries where wild salmon can be found.

Answers: USA (California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska), Canada, Japan, Korea, and Russia.

After reaching freshwater, salmon start eating anything in sight to help them with the difficult task of reaching their spawning grounds.

False. Salmon stop eating after reaching freshwater to spawn; they live off fat stored in their body. To return to the spawning grounds where they were born, salmon may travel hundreds or thousands of miles upstream over natural and man-made barriers including waterfalls, rapids and dams. Imagine doing that on an empty stomach!

As salmon travel upstream, their shape and color changes as part of the sexual maturation process.

True. For example, male salmon develop hooked snouts, male pink salmon grow a hump on their back, chum salmon of both sexes develop purple streaks on their sides and sockeye salmon turn bright red.

Salmon can lay thousands of eggs.

True. Some female spring Chinook can lay more than 4,000 eggs.

You can tell how old salmon are by counting the rings on their scales.

True. You can count the rings on a fish scale to determine their age much like counting the rings on a tree.

Chum salmon are also named Dog salmon because of their large dog-like "fangs."

False. Salmon do have a keen sense of smell—even better than dogs, but chum salmon get their nickname "dog salmon" because Alaskans feed them to their dog sled teams.

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