

COMPANION LEARNING GUIDE

NARRATED BY LIAM NEESON

RUNNING WILD

RETURN TO THE RIVER



THE ART OF CONSERVATION

FORMAL EDUCATION GUIDE:

6TH – 8TH GRADE



RUNNING WILD

RETURN TO THE RIVER

Key Concepts

- Quotes, facts, and message statements can be shared in motivating and inspiring ways. One of the most compelling ways to share knowledge or a story is through art.
- Anyone can be a conservationist. One of the best ways to protect and aid wildlife is to share our nature-knowledge with others!

Setup

- Pre-assign student small groups.
- Collect enough scratch paper to give at least two sheets to each student.
- Collect enough poster paper (11x17 or larger) to give one sheet to each student.
- Collect enough pencils, rulers, colored pencils, crayons, and markers for each student, or each student group.
- (Optional) Collect enough scissors, glue sticks, and old magazines for collage for each student, or each student group.
- (Optional) Secure access to devices and a printer for printing images.
- Print enough Quotes & Mission Statements sheets for each student, or print just one to place under a projector.
- If possible, allot 5-15 minutes during which students can spend time outside in the grass to notice and enjoy nature.
- Print the review worksheets, and set out colored pencils.

National Art Standards

VA:Cr2.3.8a

Select, organize, and design images and words to make visually clear and compelling presentations.

Vocabulary

Conservationist – someone who takes action to protect and aid plants, animals, and resources in nature such as land and water.

Motivation – a force or state of being that drives people to take action towards a certain goal.

Materials

- Scratch paper
- Poster paper (11x17 or larger is best!)
- Pencils
- Rulers
- Colored pencils
- Crayons
- Markers
- (Optional) Scissors
- (Optional) Glue sticks
- (Optional) Old magazines for collage
- (Optional) Device and printer access for printing images
- Printed Quotes & Mission Statements sheets
- Printed review worksheets



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Procedure

Introduction: The Art of Conservation

I am going to begin by asking you a few questions. Remember, you need to raise your hand if you think you know the answer!

- Have you ever read or watched “the news” before? You might have come across a piece of news on social media, in an article at school, or even read it in a newspaper. Nod your head “yes” if you have, and shake your head “no” if you have not.
- Now, nod your head if you have ever read or watched something on the news that was bad.
 - Unfortunately, we’ve all heard bad news before. Bad news is the worst. When we hear bad news, it can make us feel all sorts of emotions - sad, scared, disappointed, angry, a little bit of everything!
- What about good news? Have you ever read or watched good news before? Raise your hand to share a good news story!
 - **Instructor Note:** If you have your own “good news” story in mind, please share it with your students!
 - Luckily, we’ve all heard good news before, too! There are amazing things happening every day, all over the world. Some good news stories may just be coincidences, but often they are connected to the kindness of people who care.

Fun Fact: Scientists discover between 10,000-20,000 new species each year!

We have all heard bad news and good news that has made us feel something. Sometimes, however, we hear news that makes us want to do something, or take action. What is a word that we use to describe that feeling of being compelled or driven to do something?

- **Answer:** Motivation! Motivation is a force or state of being that drives people to take action towards a certain goal.





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Next question - Have you ever heard of a motivational poster? Nod your head “yes” if you have, and shake your head “no” if you have not! What is a motivational poster? Raise your hand to share!

- A motivational poster is a visual display in the form of a poster that is meant to make viewers feel inspired to take action. Chances are, you’ve seen motivational posters in a classroom before!
- Some motivational posters are just funny. Others are surprising, or encouraging, or challenge the way that we think. The best motivational posters inspire us to take action!

In the film we just watched, *Running Wild: Return to the River*, we learned about many inspiring individuals and groups who are taking action to protect and conserve salmon. Salmon and many other plant and animal species around the world really need help right now from people who care.

- In this case, many of the people who care are conservationists. A conservationist is someone who takes action to protect and aid plants, animals, and natural resources such as land and water.
- Conservationists can all have different jobs, and often take action in unique ways. They might be politicians, scientists, wildlife rehabilitators, college professors, and even just regular people!
- One of the biggest ways that conservationists help is simply by sharing their knowledge about how best to take care of our planet and the species that live here. Their sharing and storytelling makes a big impact when it inspires others to care, too.
- What’s one of the tools that a conservationist might use to share with others? You guessed it - art! Some conservationists share their knowledge and messages through art. Sometimes, they even share using a motivational poster!





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ACTIVITY

Conserve & Create! Making A Motivational Poster

It's time for an activity! In just a moment, we are going to begin work on creating our own motivational posters inspired by the film *Running Wild: Return to the River*. But first, let's review what "motivation" means. Raise your hand to share!

- Great answers! Motivation is a force or state of being that drives people to take action towards a certain goal.
- Some of what we learned in this film was good news, and some of what we learned was bad news.
 - The bad news is that there are many different threats currently facing the world's salmon populations. A few big threats to salmon include climate change, habitat loss, pollution, and overfishing.
 - The good news is that there are so many different individuals and organizations working hard to conserve salmon. Conservationists are taking action to protect and aid salmon so that they can survive and thrive.
 - It's important to know that both good and bad news can be motivating. We just have to keep in mind that the actions we take, or don't take, can make a difference in the world around us.

In just a few minutes, you will begin creating your poster. But first, you need to choose at least one quote or mission statement from the film that you connected with, or that made you feel motivated. You can choose one of your own, or choose from the list below:

- **Instructor Note:** Pass out printed Quotes & Mission Statements sheets to students directly, or project one copy.

- "When salmon thrive, so does the world around them."
- *Running Wild: Return to the River*
- "Healthy salmon provide food, clean rivers, and a stable climate."
- *Running Wild: Return to the River*
- "The goal of juvenile salmon is to eat more, grow bigger, get stronger".
- *Running Wild: Return to the River*
- "Even in death, they sustain life."
- *Running Wild: Return to the River*
- "When salmon suffer, so does all the life that relies on them."
- *Running Wild: Return to the River*
- "The salmon will return every year if we hold it with high respect, and high esteem."
- Hereditary Chief Na'Moks of the Tsayu Clan, Wet'suwet'en Territory (rough cut 41min, 55sec)
- "Everything is related to nature, because without nature we don't survive. We are all salmon people."
- Hereditary Chief Na'Moks of the Tsayu Clan, Wet'suwet'en Territory (rough cut 41min, 55sec)
- "Nature was my refuge when I was young. As I got older, it felt right to give something back."
- Guido Rahr
- "The best way to have salmon forever is to protect the rivers."
- Mikhail Skopets (rough cut 20min, 30sec)

Wild Salmon Center's mission is to promote the conservation and sustainable use of wild salmon ecosystems across the Pacific Rim.

- Smith River Alliance's mission is to provide for the long term protection, restoration, and stewardship of the natural resources in the Smith River watershed.

The Pacific Salmon Foundation is dedicated to making transformational change for the benefit of Pacific salmon at every scale – from the smallest streams to the open ocean.



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Some important rules for this project are:

- **Rule #1:** Your poster must either tell the story of how you feel motivated to take action as a conservationist, or it must have the purpose of motivating others to take action.
- **Rule #2:** You must include at least one quote, fact, or mission statement from the film that you connected with.
- **Rule #3:** You must include pictures or visual elements on your poster. These can be printed, collaged, or hand-drawn.
- **Rule #4:** You must create at least one “rough draft” of your poster on another sheet of paper. As you plan what the final product will look like, you must organize your images and text in a way that is thoughtful and clear.
- **Instructor Note:** Break your students into small groups, and encourage them to discuss their ideas while they work on their rough drafts. Pass out the pieces of scratch paper, and allow 10-15min of planning and sketching. Once rough drafts are complete, students may create posters in small groups or independently, at your discretion.

You had great ideas on how to organize and design your motivational posters! You may now get to work on creating your poster, but remember - a work of art does not have to be perfect in order to be inspirational!

- **Instructor Note:** If your students have trouble with choosing images, suggest that they draw a salmon from the Running Wild film! Examples:
 - Salmon from different angles
 - Salmon during different life stages
 - Salmon in different habitats
 - Salmon alongside the animals that rely on them (ex. grizzly bears, eagles, wolves, aquatic insects, etc.)

Amazing work! What was the quote, fact, or mission statement that you chose for your motivational poster? Raise your hand to share!

Conservationists take action on behalf of nature. One inspiring tool that they use to share their knowledge is art! What is another form of art that you might use to share knowledge or inspire?

- Humans are learning new things about nature every single day. As we keep learning, it is important to remember that our hard work and choices can create real change in the world. They might be small changes, but they still matter. Conservationists can be regular people, and one of the best things that we can do as conservationists is to share our knowledge and stories with others!

Fun Fact: There is a famous cartoon bear associated with motivational posters and images for the prevention of forest fires. He was officially adopted as the U.S. Forest Service mascot in 1950. Do you know who he is?

“Run Wild” Time

Move the class to an outdoor area for just 5-15 minutes, ideally away from the school playground. Invite them to notice and feel curious about nature a little extra after their time watching “Running Wild.” Encourage them to touch the dirt, grass, twigs, and leaves; feel the warm/cool air on their skin; listen for birds, bugs, and the wind; smell the plants around them; and try to spot insects.

Review Questions

Motivation is a force that drives people to take action towards a certain goal. What is something you've seen, learned, or experienced in life recently that has made you feel driven to take action?

Why is art a compelling way to share knowledge and stories?

What is a conservationist? What is one way that a 6th-8th grader can be an effective conservationist?

Where is one place you could hang your poster that would help you to remember what you learned today, and keep your motivation alive?

What is one thing you saw in the Running Wild: Return to the River film that surprised or amazed you?

RUNNING WILD: QUOTES & MISSION STATEMENTS

- **“When salmon thrive, so does the world around them.”**
- *Running Wild: Return to the River*
- **“Healthy salmon provide food, clean rivers, and a stable climate.”**
- *Running Wild: Return to the River*
- **“Eat more, grow bigger, get stronger.”**
- *Running Wild: Return to the River*
- **“Even in death, they sustain life.”**
- *Running Wild: Return to the River*
- **“When salmon suffer, so does all the life that relies on them.”**
- *Running Wild: Return to the River*
- **“The salmon will return every year if we hold it with high respect, and high esteem.”**
- *Hereditary Chief Na’Moks of the Tsayu Clan, Wet’suwet’en Territory
(rough cut 41min, 55sec)”*
- **“Everything is related to nature, because without nature we don’t survive. We are allsalmon people.”**
- *Hereditary Chief Na’Moks of the Tsayu Clan, Wet’suwet’en Territory
(rough cut 41min, 55sec)*
- **“Nature was my refuge when I was young. As I got older, it felt right to give somethingback.”**
- *Guido Rahr, Wild Salmon Center President & CEO*
- **“The best way to have salmon forever is to protect the rivers.”**
- *Mikhail Skopets (rough cut 20min, 30sec)*
- Wild Salmon Center’s mission is to **promote the conservation and sustainable use of wildsalmon ecosystems across the Pacific Rim.**
- Smith River Alliance’s mission is to **provide for the long term protection, restoration, andstewardship of the natural resources in the Smith River watershed.**
- The Pacific Salmon Foundation is dedicated to **making transformational change for thebenefit of Pacific salmon at every scale – from the smallest streams to the open ocean.**

Name:

Date:

RUNNING WILD: COMMUNITIES & KEYSTONE SPECIES

A keystone species is...

Salmon are keystone species. One plant/animal species that relies on salmon is ----- . It relies on salmon for...

KEYSTONE SPECIES WORD SEARCH



WORD BANK:

BALD EAGLE
BEAVER
BEE

CHINOOK SALMON
COHO SALMON
GOLDENROD

OAK TREE
PURPLE SEA STAR
SEA OTTER

SOCKEYE SALMON
WOLF

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**RUNNING
WILD**
RETURN TO THE RIVER

A MISSION PARTNERS ENTERTAINMENT GROUP AND DORSEY PICTURES FILM PRESENTED BY THE MAX MCGRAW WILDLIFE FOUNDATION AND ULINE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WILD SALMON CENTER AND TIMASHEV FOUNDATION
MUSIC BY ALEX HEFFES DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY ANDY MASER TAVISH CAMPBELL EDITED BY JAMES TAGGART SUPERVISING PRODUCER DJ ROBERTS EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS CHRIS DORSEY CHARLES S. POTTER JR.
DIRECTED BY MYLES CONNOLLY NARRATED BY LIAM NEESON



www.runningwild.org

