

Salmon in the Trees Activity

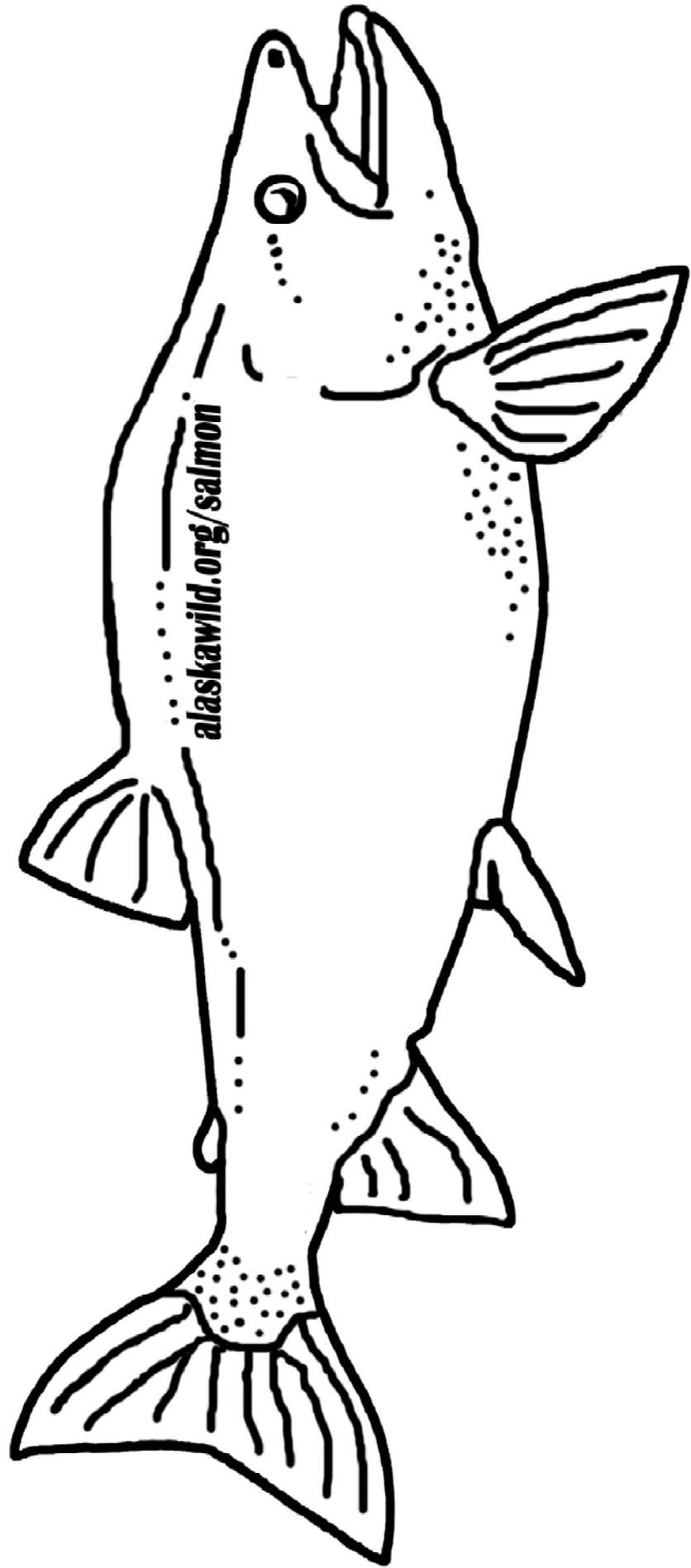
Our Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska is a place where trees grow salmon, salmon grow trees, and a rich cycle of life carries on through millennia

One of the rarest ecosystems on Earth, the Tongass rain forest fringes the coastal panhandle of Alaska and covers thousands of islands in the Alexander Archipelago. Many people know this area as the Inside Passage. It's a place where everything is interconnected: Humpback whales, orcas, and sea lions cruise the forested shorelines. Wild salmon swim upstream into the forest, feeding some of the world's highest densities of grizzlies, black bears, and bald eagles. Native cultures endure with Raven, Eagle, and Salmon. Local communities benefit from the gifts of both the forest and sea.

Help us educate the public about this amazing place by making a salmon and hanging it in a tree for all to see. This an activity that anyone can do. Let your creativity run wild!

1. Print a bunch of the templates on the next page.
2. Print out a bunch of these templates and gather markers, crayons, glue, glitter, stickers, anything that inspires you. You'll probably want a couple pairs of scissors.
3. For the hanger, you can use paper clips, rubber bands, pipe cleaners, old twisty ties, or string.
4. Gather your friends, family, colleagues, students, or even set up a small table in a public space and ask folks to make their own salmon.
5. Once folks make their salmon, you could hang them on a real tree near your location (i.e. on your school's playground,) hang them on an indoor tree (i.e. a ficus in an area that gets good foot traffic,) or create a tree out of paper and tape it to the wall and tape your salmon to that tree.





Alternate Method to Make Salmon in the Trees- Air Dry or Bake Clay Ornaments

Ingredients:

- * 1 cup flour
- * ½ cup salt
- * ½ cup water

Makes about 20 salmon.

Mix together the dry ingredients. Mix constantly while adding the water slowly. You may not need all the water. The mixture should not be sticky- this is important.

Knead 10 minutes until the dough is firm.

Roll out the dough to about ¼ inch thickness and cut with salmon cookies cutter (just like you would cookies). (You can buy a cookie cutter here- <http://www.alaskawild.org/take-action/our-store>.) Having a well floured surface and rolling pin is helpful. For ornaments that you plan to hang, be sure to poke a 1/4 to 1/2 inch hole near the top of the ornament before baking. Plastic drinking straws work well for this purpose.

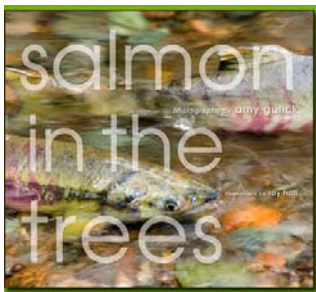
Store extra in a plastic bag for up to 3 weeks.

You can let air dry for 48 hours (in a dry, breezy location.) **OR** Preheat the oven to 300 degrees. Bake on a foil covered cookie sheet for about 30 minutes or until light brown.

Paint with acrylic or tempra paints. (Acrylic paints cover better, but don't wash out of clothes). You can then write the Salmon in the Trees web address- alaskawild.org/salmon- on them with permanent marker. To make them more durable, coat with a clear coat of spray paint or acrylic coating.



Book to use with teens and adults for this activity:

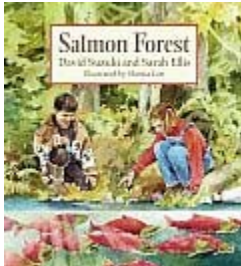


[Salmon in the Trees](#) by Amy Gulick. Join acclaimed nature photographer Amy Gulick as she documents one of the rarest ecosystems on Earth. Gulick's stunning photographs -- together with essays and audio from noted authors including Carl Safina, Douglas Chadwick, and Richard Nelson -- tell a hopeful story of Alaska's Tongass rain forest, where trees grow salmon, and salmon grow trees.

Books to use with children for background on this activity:



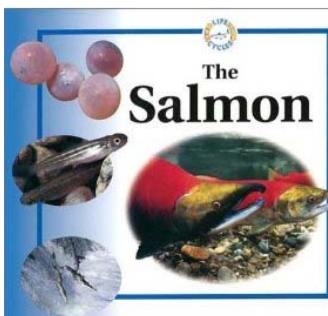
The Last American Rainforest: Tongass by Shelley Gill. Ages 4-8. Explore part of North America's rainforest, the setting for this story about Lily, a Tlingit Indian girl who searches with her aunt for a special spruce tree. In the course of their journey, Lily discovers her own family history. This fully illustrated book includes natural history information about rainforest life as well as a cultural introduction to the Northwest Coast people.



Salmon Forest by David Suzuki and Sarah Ellis- This book is about a salmon forest on Canada's West Coast which is very similar to the Tongass National Forest in Alaska



The Magic School Bus: Goes Upstream by Joanna Cole and Nancy Krulik. This book focuses on salmon migration and is a companion to a TV episode on the same subject. Scholastic also has this [hands on lesson plan](#).



The Salmon by Sabrina Crewe is designed for K-2 audiences and follows the salmon lifecycle.

The Life Cycle of Salmon by Bobbie Kalman and Rebecca Sjonger is for kids age 6-12 and also focuses on the stages of a salmon's life.