

CHAPTER 6 —Paper Salmon

Background: In mid-October 1805 Lewis and Clark had reached the Columbia River and they saw their first salmon. Native Americans had been fishing long before Lewis and Clark arrived in the Northwest. Indians fished at Celilo Falls and other spots on the river by erecting platforms over the water. From the platforms, the Indians speared the salmon as they swam upstream to spawn.

Fish have always been important to Native Americans who respect this life-giving resource. The art of fishing has been a powerful force in nature for human beings since Paleolithic times. Early humans depicted themselves fishing on the walls of their caves. Between 1500 and 900 B.C. the Chinese began fishing with lines made from silk, hooks made from iron, and bait made from split grain.

There is little difference between two important fish in the Northwest, the trout and the salmon. Salmon has strong teeth and is anadromous. Anadromous means that salmon live in the sea and return to fresh water to spawn. Most trout spend their life in fresh water although some species move back and forth between fresh and salt water. Salmon species include silver or Coho and king or Chinook. Trout species include cutthroat and rainbow.

The students will construct a paper salmon or trout and stuff it to make it three-dimensional.



Materials

- Pictures of salmon or trout. Preferably detailed—showing scales, fins, gills, and colors, for example
- Two 12- by 18-inch sheets of any color construction paper for each student
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pencils
- Something with which to stuff a paper fish, such as shredded paper
- Sheets of colored construction paper. Choose several different colors.
- Hole punch or a large needle such as a darning or needlepoint
- String or narrow ribbon

Planning

Photocopy the fish pictures, enough so that each student can have one.

Procedure

Initial preparation

Set up all the supplies the students will need in one central location, such as on a long table or a couple desks in the classroom.

Construct the body the fish

Tell the students to

- Draw a picture of the fish on one sheet of the 12- by 18-inch construction paper. Fill up as much of the paper as possible.
- Staple together the two sheets of 12- by 18-inch paper.
- Cut out the picture of the fish. They will have two pieces of fish-shaped construction paper.
- Staple together the two pieces of fish-shaped paper. Leave an opening in the belly of the fish through which to add stuffing.
- Stuff the fish and staple closed the hole in the belly.

Add scales, gills, and eyes

- Choose several colors of construction paper to make fish scales from. Look at the pictures to choose colors that are realistic or choose colors from your imagination to create a fantastic fish.
- Cut pieces of paper no longer or wider than your thumbnail for the scales.
- Starting at the tail of the fish, glue the front end of the first paper scale to the fish. The glued end is toward the head of the fish, and the loose end is toward the tail.
- Glue the second paper scale to the fish so that the loose end overlaps the glued end of the first scale. Continue in a straight line from the tail to the head of the fish.
- Glue scales all over both sides of the fish.
- Cut paper gills and eyes and paste them on the fish. Look at the picture of the fish to see where the gills and eyes go and what they look like.
- Poke or punch a hole in the center of the top edge of the fish, and insert a string or ribbon to use as a hanger so that the fish can be displayed.

Extensions

Display the fish by hanging them in the classroom or hallway.

Have the students draw and color or paint fish or add drawings and pictures of fish to their books.

Print fish in their books or on sheets of paper with a linoleum print block.

Research local fish species and report on them to the class.

