



Forests and Fins

Focuses on stream/forest ecology and the life cycle of salmon. Students complete a mock stream survey in the classroom in preparation to do a real stream survey on the field study trip. Students work in small groups to analyze the riparian zone, look for macroinvertebrates, test water quality and evaluate the stream channel.

Next Generation Science Standards: MS-LS4-1, MS-ESS2-1, HS-LS4-1, HS-ESS2-1
Suggested Grade Level: 5th-8th



Introductory Lesson Taught by the classroom teacher, this lesson helps students complete a pre-program assessment in their Science Journal and start getting familiar with curriculum topics and key terms.

In-Class Lesson A Greenway Educator teaches this one-hour lesson to prepare the students for their field study trip. Students spend the bulk of the time doing a hands-on activity in small groups. The activity is bookended by an overview presentation and expectations about the field study trip.

Field Study Trip Students spend the day at Lake Sammamish State Park in Issaquah evaluating a salmon stream through the lenses of water quality, stream channel, macroinvertebrates (stream bugs), and plants growing in the riparian zone.

Stewardship Event Students get to take action! Depending on the season, they remove weeds (like blackberry and ivy) or plant native trees and shrubs. This ecological restoration helps improve habitat for salmon and other wildlife. Stewardship events most often happen at Lake Sammamish State Park in Issaquah.

Reflective Lesson A Greenway Educator returns to the classroom to review the students' learning experience and facilitate the post-program assessment found in their Science Journal.