

# English Language Arts

## LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE: SESSION 1

### DIRECTIONS

This session contains three reading selections with sixteen multiple-choice questions and two open-response questions. Mark your answers to these questions in the spaces provided in your Student Answer Booklet.

*What happens to animals when their homes are destroyed? Some of them are unable to survive. That's what happened to the Chinook salmon. Read this article to discover how a group of students helped to bring the salmon back to Middle Creek after the fish had been gone for fifty years. Answer the questions that follow.*

# Bringing Back Salmon

PHOTOS AND STORY BY JEFFREY RICH

- 1 This was a big day for my students at Shasta Union Elementary School in northern California. They would be trying to bring Chinook salmon (shih-NOOK SAM-un) back to nearby Middle Creek.
- 2 This creek flows into a big river called the Sacramento. And for 50 years, there had been no salmon at all in the river or the creeks that flow into it. Why? Because people had changed the flow of the river and had polluted the water. Fewer and fewer salmon were able to survive, and finally they all died out.
- 3 Since then, people have solved some of the problems that were killing the fish. So now my students would release more than 100 tiny salmon into the creek. They knew that salmon are amazing travelers. The tiny fish, they hoped, would



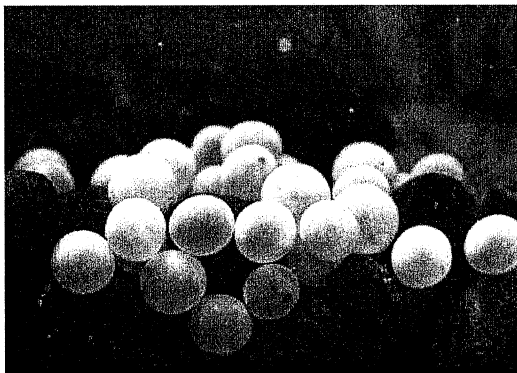
See my students? They're helping an endangered species!

swim about three miles (5 km) down the creek to the Sacramento River. Then they would swim 200 more miles (320 km) to the Pacific Ocean. For two to five years, the salmon would eat and grow. Finally, when they were ready to have young of their own, they'd turn around and swim all the way back upstream to Middle Creek.

- 4 Or at least, that's what was supposed to happen. No one knew for sure whether our little fish would ever return to where we'd released them.

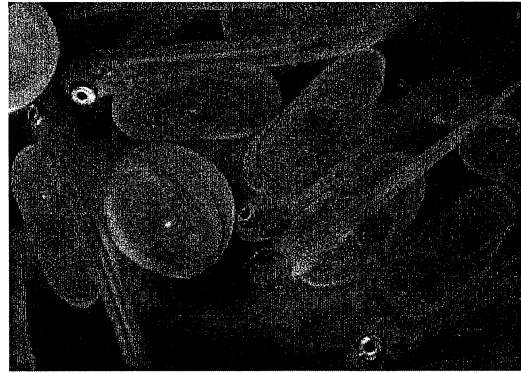
### COOL EGGS, SMALL FRY

- 5 Scientists have always wanted to bring salmon back to this area. So when I had found out they needed some help, I had asked my students if they wanted to join in. The kids said, *Yes!*



Scientists give us tiny salmon eggs to raise.

- 6 To begin our project, my students visited a fish hatchery. There, they got a bunch of salmon eggs to raise. Salmon can live only in cold water. So the kids kept the eggs in a tank in



When the babies hatch, they still have yolk sacs on their bellies.

a refrigerator. They checked the eggs every day.

### SNACK IN A SAC

- 7 The kids really enjoyed watching what happened. When the young were ready to hatch, they released an *enzyme* (EN-zime, a special chemical) that weakened the egg



As they get older, the sacs shrink, and the babies look more like fish.

shells. Then the fish wiggled out of their shells and lay on the bottom of the tank.

- 8 Baby salmon have yolk sacs attached to their bellies. The sacs are like little bags of high-energy food that the babies use to grow. Finally, when the sacs are gone, the fish are ready to eat tiny animals and plants in the water. When that happened to our fish, we knew it was time to release them!

### WILL IT WORK?

- 9 At the creek, the students took one last look at their baby fish. Then

they sent them on their way. We watched them swim off and wished them well. Then, on our way back to school, we picked up litter we saw along the creek and the pathway.

- 10 Each fall for three years, my students went to the hatchery for more eggs. They eagerly raised and released the baby fish just as they did the first time. Then one day, something wonderful happened. Our fish started coming back! For the first time in 50 years, grown-up salmon were swimming in Middle Creek. The kids had done it! They'd helped to bring these fish back home.



Endangered salmon are now swimming upstream to Middle Creek.  
Way to go, salmon! Way to go, KIDS!

“Bringing Back Salmon” text and photos by Jeffrey Rich. Reprinted with permission of the author. All rights reserved.

- 1 Based on the article, what do the students hope will happen after they release baby salmon into the creek?
- A. Salmon will let out an enzyme to weaken egg shells.
  - B. Salmon will continue to be an endangered species.
  - C. Salmon will have yolk sacs attached to their bellies.
  - D. Salmon will return to the creek to lay eggs.
- 2 According to the article, why are salmon “amazing travelers”?
- A. They can swim long distances.
  - B. They can swim downstream.
  - C. They can swim in the ocean.
  - D. They can swim in cold water.
- 3 According to the article, which of the following did the students do **first** to help bring salmon back to Middle Creek?
- A. They released salmon into the creek.
  - B. They picked up litter along the creek.
  - C. They received eggs from a fish hatchery.
  - D. They kept the eggs in a tank in the refrigerator.
- 4 According to the article, what did the salmon eggs need in order to survive?
- A. They needed to be kept in cold water.
  - B. They needed to develop in the creek.
  - C. They needed to swim upstream.
  - D. They needed food to grow.
- 5 Based on the article, the author of “Bringing Back Salmon” is **most likely** a
- A. classroom teacher.
  - B. primary school student.
  - C. scientist from the area.
  - D. supervisor from the hatchery.

- 6 What makes this article nonfiction?
- A. It presents facts about salmon.
  - B. It uses rhyming verses about salmon.
  - C. It gives an imaginary report about salmon.
  - D. It entertains through a story about salmon.

- 7 Read the sentence from the article in the box below.

They eagerly raised and released the baby fish just as they did the first time.

What part of speech is the word *eagerly* as it is used in the sentence?

- A. noun
- B. verb
- C. adjective
- D. adverb

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Write your answer to open-response question 8 in the space provided in your Student Answer Booklet.

- 8 In the article “Bringing Back Salmon,” the students raise salmon eggs.
- a. Describe how the students cared for the eggs.
  - b. Describe how the eggs hatched.
  - c. Describe how the students knew when to release the eggs into the creek.
- Support your answers with important details from the article.