

Be an Engineer!

You just learned about some river animals. Now build a model of a river. Put soil in a pan. Tilt the pan up by putting one side on a big book. Now slowly pour water into the high end of the pan. Observe how the water flows in your model.

Now build a dam using only *natural* objects. Let water flow again. How did the dam change how the river flowed? How would the dam help or harm animals in your river?



Beyond the Book

With an adult, visit a river or stream. Do you see any animals?

FOCUS Book

Animals of the Rivers



: Science A-Z 

Animals of the Rivers



FOCUS Question

How do animals live in rivers?

Structure and Function

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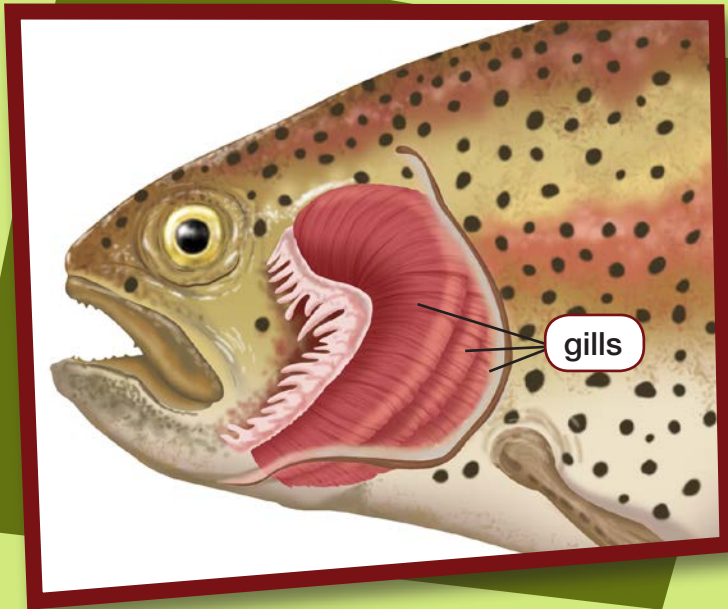
What Is a River?

Rivers are places where water flows on land.

Many kinds of animals live in rivers. Some stay in the water all the time. Others stay in the water for only part of their lives.



A beaver swims in a river.



If you could see inside a fish, this is what its gills would look like.

Living in the Water

All animals must breathe. Some river animals swim to the top of the water. Then they take a breath of air.

Others breathe under water! Fish have parts called *gills*. Gills help them get *oxygen* (OK-suh-jin) from the water.

Living on the Water

Ducks and other birds swim on top of the water. Ducks have webbed feet. Their feet help them swim.

A duck's mouth is called a *bill*. Its flat-shaped bill helps the duck eat small plants and animals in the river.

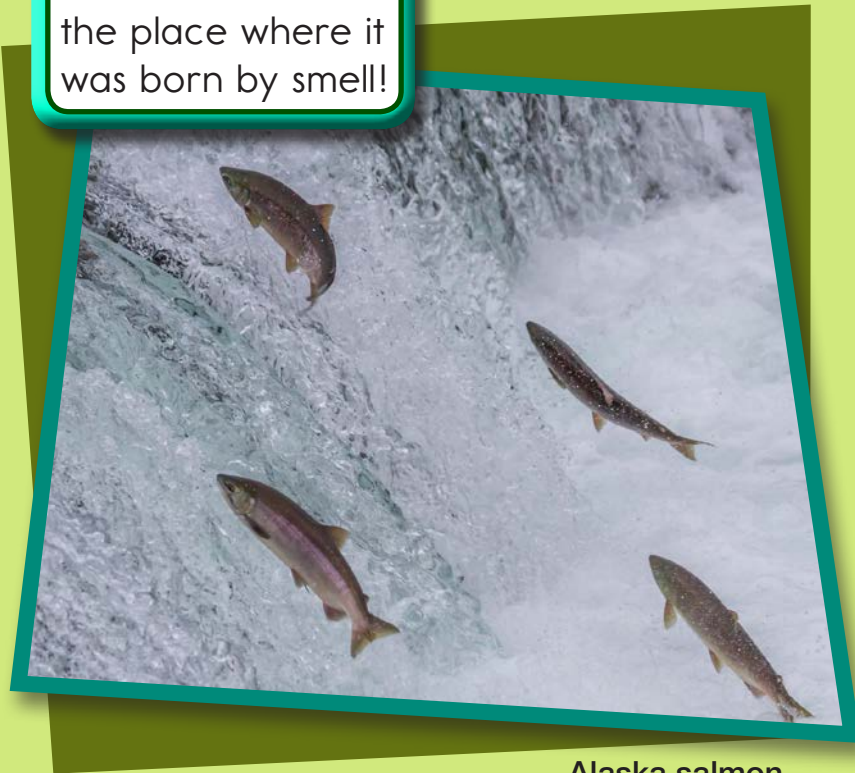


In Rivers and Oceans

Salmon are fish that spend some of their life in oceans and some in rivers. Adult salmon swim up the river to lay their eggs where they were born.

wowser!

A salmon can find the place where it was born by smell!



Alaska salmon

In and Out of the River

Frogs spend only part of their lives in rivers.

Adult frogs lay eggs in rivers. Their babies are called *tadpoles*. Tadpoles have gills.

Tadpoles grow legs and turn into frogs. Frogs live on land and in the water. They have webbed feet for swimming.

wowser!

Frogs can breathe through their skin.



Tadpoles lose their tails once they turn into frogs.

A caddis (CA-dis) fly is an insect that lives near rivers.

Like frogs, caddis flies lay eggs in rivers.

Young caddis flies build homes out of small rocks, shells and leaves. These homes protect them from other animals in the river.

Soon they change into adults.

They grow wings and fly away.



adult caddis fly

Young caddis flies build homes out of small rocks and shells.



alligator

Alligators live in rivers and on land. They find food in the water and on land.

Alligators dig holes near rivers. These are called *gator holes*. Sometimes rivers dry up. The gator holes stay filled with water—and food!



a beaver dam

Changing the River

Beavers change the rivers they live in. They chew on trees to cut them down.

The trees block the river. The pile of trees and branches is called a *dam*.

Dams slow down the water. This makes a pool. Beavers live in their dams.

Read-Think-Write

Write or draw your answers on separate paper. Use details from the book to support each answer.

- 1 Which body part do some animals use to breathe in water?
 - (A) bill
 - (B) gills
 - (C) feathers
- 2 Why do many river animals have webbed feet?
- 3 How might an alligator survive when rivers dry up?
- 4 Which of these animals lay eggs in rivers?

salmon caddis flies frogs beavers

FOCUS Question

How do animals live in rivers? Choose two animals pictured in this book. Explain how each animal uses its body parts to live in a river.

Use writing and pictures.

