

# KOKANEE SALMON & THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

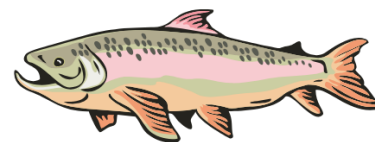
## ELEMENTARY SOCIAL STUDIES



11255 Okanagan Centre Rd. W.  
Lake Country, BC V4V 2J7

### ACTIVITY OVERVIEW:

1. Students will learn about the Kokanee salmon which are located in some of the Okanagan's lakes.
2. They will then use that information to think about the different ways humans impact these lakes, specifically Wood Lake
3. Individually or in groups, students will choose an issue that came up in the discussion and create a poster to raise awareness about that issue



**BIG IDEA:** Healthy communities...care for the local environment; Canada is made up of many diverse regions; the pursuit of valuable natural resources has played a key role in changing the land, people, & communities of Canada; Natural resources continue to shape the economy & identity of Canada

### COMPETENCY:

Inquiry processes, cause & consequence, ethical judgement, significance

### CONTENT:

Relationships between a community & its environment; diverse features of the environment in Canada; physiographic features & natural resources of Canada; resources & economic development in Canada

### WHAT WILL WE KNOW:

- What makes the Kokanee salmon unique
- Human impacts on the environment
- Ideas on how they can make a difference

### FURTHER INQUIRY:

#### *Field Trip Suggestions*

1. Mission Creek Park
2. Environmental Education Centre of the Okanagan
3. Lake Country Museum and Archives



**We respectfully acknowledge that the land on which the Lake Country Museum is situated, where this lesson was developed, is on the unceded territory of the Syilx (Okanagan) Peoples.**

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**Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society**

**11255 Okanagan Center Road West**

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# Kokanee Salmon

<b>Learning Objective(s)</b>	Students will have the opportunity to learn about the Kokanee Salmon in the Okanagan: the Indigenous origins of their name, the local lakes they reside in, the threats they face, and what we can do to help ensure their survival.
<b>Suggested Grades</b>	Elementary/Secondary
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	
<b>Materials</b>	<p>Students will create a poster to raise awareness about an issue relating to the Kokanee Salmon that is important to them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Posters</li> <li>● Glue</li> <li>● Markers, crayons, pencils</li> <li>● Anything available to decorate a poster</li> </ul>
<b>Introduction</b>	Students will learn about the history of the Kokanee salmon to then make informed decisions about the future of Wood Lake.
<b>The Future of Wood Lake</b>	<p>Begin this activity with a discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What has affected Wood Lake over the past one hundred years?</li> <li>● What do you think will affect Wood Lake in the future?</li> </ul> <p>Things to consider in your discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Current and potential threats to the Kokanee Salmon</li> <li>● Indications of a healthy or unhealthy lake</li> <li>● Development and human encroachment</li> <li>● Agricultural activities and/or water use</li> <li>● Pelmwash Parkway and the Rail Trail</li> <li>● The proposed reintroduction of sockeye salmon to Okanagan Lake, will this affect the Kokanee?</li> <li>● Analyze topographical maps, where are/were the orchards?</li> </ul> <p>Once students have come up with multiple ideas about the future of Wood Lake, having them pair/group up to create posters to raise awareness about an issue that feels important to them. When they finish, have them share their poster and chosen issue with the class. We suggest displaying the posters around the school or in your classroom.</p>

<p><b>Historical Context</b></p>	<p>Kokanee is a word from the Okanagan Syilx language, kəkn' iʔ. It refers to the land-locked lake populations of Sockeye salmon. Most species of salmon travel hundreds or even thousands of miles over a lifetime. Salmon are born in fresh water and live most of their adult lives in the ocean, returning to the freshwater stream to spawn. Only Kokanee salmon do not make this journey. They live their whole lives in a freshwater stream or lake. Stream-spawners migrate into lake tributaries in early September and complete spawning by mid-October. Shore-spawners migrate to spawning beaches along the lake shoreline and spawn from mid-October to mid-November.</p> <p>Wood Lake is one of only three lakes in the Okanagan that has two species of Kokanee salmon, the stream spawners and the shore spawners. Although these two types of Kokanee share the lake, shore-spawning and stream-spawning Kokanee are distinct populations. The other two lakes containing both species of Kokanee are Okanagan Lake and Kalamalka Lake.</p>
<p><b>Further Inquiry</b></p>	<p><u><i>Suggested Readings:</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you would like to learn more about the Kokanee salmon in more detail, we suggest reading through the Kokanee Salmon Heritage Project document. The project can be found <a href="#">here</a>, located in the second row of exhibits.</li> <li>• LCMA website resource: Aerial photographs of Lake Country, David Madison Album Topographical map of Wood Lake</li> <li>• <a href="#">Oceola Fish and Game Club</a>, Lake Country</li> <li>• Nation Alliance, Fisheries and Aquatics Department</li> <li>• <a href="#">Okanagan Basin Water Board</a></li> </ul> <p><u><i>Field Trip Suggestions:</i></u></p> <p>Organize a field trip to <b>Mission Creek Park</b> to observe the Kokanee. Visit the <a href="#">Environmental Education Centre of the Okanagan</a> (EECO) for exhibits and discovery kits.</p> <p><a href="#">The Lake Country Museum and Archives</a> has a wide range of exhibits and activities for your class to take advantage of. There is also a playground and field behind the building and the lake nearby that students can make use of for various activities.</p> <p>There may be the opportunity for a guest lecturer to visit your classroom or be present at the museum with the knowledge of more local history stories. If interested, please contact the Museum ahead of time.</p>