

Oregon Fish Eggs to Fry Program



TEACHERS' RESOURCE

HANDS-ON SCIENCE

When an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife employee or volunteer walks into a classroom with a small blue cooler, the students watch with wide-eyed attention to see what will happen next.

Inside that cooler is a tiny cheesecloth packet of more than 300 pinkish-orange fish eggs. The Fish Eggs to Fry handler will soon sprinkle them into an aquarium of clean, perfectly chilled water.

In the weeks ahead, the students will take daily temperature readings and calculate how long it will be until the fish are mature. They will learn about the life history of fish as they observe the eggs hatching and transforming into "sac fry" before becoming tiny salmon. Soon, the students will take a field trip to a local creek, stream or river to learn about habitat and set these one-inch fish free.

The Fish Eggs to Fry program gives students in classrooms from kindergarten through high school a way to observe the biology of salmon, steelhead or trout, and participate in the life cycle in a hands-on way. It brings to life and reinforces what they're learning in their lessons. The project also lends itself to a broad variety of additional subject areas, including math, chemistry, writing and art.



"It's a real living example of all animals' life cycles."



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“It’s a real living example of all animals’ life cycles,” said Karen Hans, ODFW Salmon Trout Enhancement Program biologist in the Mid-Willamette District. “It’s an excellent tool to teach kids about that part of their biology lesson.”

IDEAS FOR CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

The Fish Eggs to Fry program is an important part of the ODFW Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP).

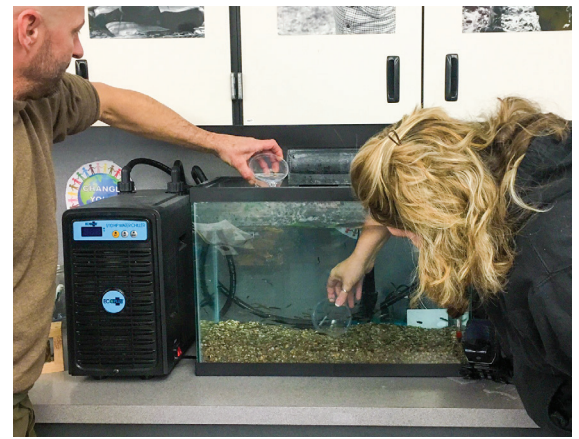
ODFW has a variety of curriculum ready to go for lessons, complete with suggested classroom activities. Planned program updates beginning in 2017 will continue to match that curriculum to next-generation science standards, making it simple for teachers to meet those objectives.

GET STARTED

ODFW has a variety of resources that support the Fish Eggs to Fry program, including videos, PowerPoint presentations, and manuals. Find them and learn more at the STEP website.

Then, contact your local ODFW to talk with a STEP biologist about getting a Fish Eggs to Fry program started in your classroom. Necessary equipment includes a 10- to 20-gallon aquarium, a water chiller, gravel, a thermometer and a pump, hoses and filter to maintain water quality. Depending on availability, some equipment may be provided for participants.

Learn more at www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/STEP/resources-education.asp



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/STEP

