

NWSRI VIDEO SERIES

VIDEO 10 - STURGEON HATCHERY ANIMATION

This video explores how a sturgeon is made at the Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre. The video uses animation to reinforce the steps.

Total Length: 4:38 minutes. The video is broken into several steps. Below are some key questions to think about for each step of the process.

Step 1 - Collecting Eggs: 00:35 to 01:15

- How many mature sturgeon do researchers want to catch each year to use at the hatchery?
- What do researchers use to check if female eggs are mature while they are in the boat on the river?
- What do developing sturgeon eggs eat?

Step 2 - Eggs Hatching: 01:15 to 01:53

- Where do larval sturgeon hide when they are in the tanks? Why?
- What do sturgeon eat - what is in their fish food?

Step 3 - Juvenile Care: 01:53-02:41

- How big is a 40 day old juvenile sturgeon?
- How often are they fed each day?
- Can you explain why researchers sort juvenile sturgeon into small and large fish and put them in separate tanks?

Step 4 - Growth Stages: 02:41-03:01

- Name the three things hatchery staff do to help sturgeon grow big and strong.
- Why do they need to be big and strong before they get released into the river?

Step 5 - Release: 03:01-03:43

- How long do sturgeon stay in the hatchery before they are released?
- What do staff do to each sturgeon before they are released (hint, it helps them identify the sturgeon if it is caught again later)?
- Have any of your students released a sturgeon?

Step 6 - Goal: 03:43-04:38

- Why is it important to have sturgeon reach adult age in the river?

For further learning and links to other related resources, refer to:

- [Video 1: Conservation Centre](#) for a more in-depth look at the hatchery.
- [Lesson 3-2 \(Life-Cycle\)](#) for a worksheet activity of the life-cycle.
- [Video 2: Spawning, Life Cycle, and Sturgeon Release](#)
- [Video 2 Resource Sheet](#) for additional questions about the sturgeon life-cycle.

More available at:

www.nechakowhitesturgeon.org

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DEFINITIONS

The narrator uses some scientific language. Here are the explanations to the terms.

Milt: Fish sperm.

Competition: When two or more animals fight over the same food or habitat. Often the smaller or weaker animals lose, which lets the bigger animals get bigger and stronger, and the smaller animals get weaker and at risk of dying.

Predation: When an animal is eaten by another animal. The animal being eaten is the prey, and the animal doing the eating is the predator.

INQUIRY OPPORTUNITY:

Expand on the concept of 'competition' in animals. Give other examples and expand to competition in people.

EXPLORE PROJECT: YOUR STURGEON STORY

The video explains why and how it raises sturgeon to be released into the Nechako River.

Write a story about a sturgeon that was raised and released from the hatchery, and detail what that fish may experience in the river that it didn't in the hatchery.

