

# GRADE 8-10 2020-2021 STURGEON + CALENDAR

EXPLORE BIODIVERSITY AND LIFE PROCESSES.  
**SMARTBOARD** - Click on the **LINKS** for more!  
**ON YOU CLASSROOM WALL** - Add your own  
events and projects on this calendar!

## September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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27	28	29	30	31		

## November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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29	30					

## January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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## March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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## May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31					1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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## July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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## QUICK LINKS

- Video 1 - Conservation Centre
- Video 2 - Spawning to Release Stage
- Video 3 - Sturgeon in the Wild
- Video 4 - Predation
- Sturgeon Curriculum Outline
- Nature Guide to the Nechako Valley

## Highlighted Calendar Dates/Activities/Links

**September 8:** First day of school! Put up your calendar and bookmark it on your Browser!

**September 21:** Chinook salmon are migrating upstream. Watch [Every Sturgeon Counts](#) and then plan a [field trip](#) to the Stellako, Nautley, Stuart or Nechako Rivers to see spawning salmon.

**September 27:** [BC Rivers Day!](#) What is happening in your community?

**September 28:** Invertebrates play an important role in the river ecosystem and [riparian zone](#). Use the invertebrate cards from the [Sturgeon Kit](#), or the [Nature Guide](#) and plan a field trip to a creek to get a closer look at aquatic insects.

**October 5:** Bears are now feeding on the spawned salmon. Explore how these interactions in the watershed are important for [biodiversity](#).

**October 11-24:** All hatchery sturgeon are getting [PIT tags](#) implanted this month. 'Cupcake' is a great example of how effective PIT tags are in research.

**November 9:** Researchers have completed their fall [Juvenile Monitoring](#) program. Check the [Where is My Fish](#) website to see if any fish you or your school have released were recaptured this fall and where!

**November 15-21:** The water temperature in the hatchery is lowering to match river temperatures. Watch [Video 1](#) and view [Culturist](#) to learn more.

**November 23:** Young sturgeon have scutes to protect them, but are still vulnerable to predators. Watch [Video 4](#) and expand on predatory-prey interactions, and how humans have played a role in sturgeon survival.

**December 2:** Sturgeon have lived since the age of dinosaurs and have been an important part of First Nations history. Read about 'Unel'tsoo' and review the [history of sturgeon](#). Do an explore by focussing on the events of the last 100 years on sturgeon.

**January 4:** Happy New Year! The NWSRI is finishing another year of recovery work on sturgeon. [Have a look at the year in review NWSRI projects](#).

**January 18:** Sturgeon are not active over the winter. Use the [Nature Guide](#) to explore which animals are active in the watershed over the winter.

**February 9:** Sturgeon researchers are planning [summer research projects](#). Create your own sturgeon research project using 'Day in the life of...' as your starting point.

**March 1:** Winter is slowly coming to an end and sturgeon will start migrating to the spawning grounds soon. Review the [map of the watershed](#), watch [Video 3](#), and talk about sturgeon migration and [land uses](#) within their distribution.

**April 8:** This month the water will start to warm up. Sturgeon become active and want to feed. Watch [Video 2](#) to review the life cycle, [sturgeon habitat and food](#) and to get ready for the Sturgeon Release.

**April 18-24:** Crews are preparing to (1) release sturgeon into the Nechako, (2) capture adult sturgeon for this year's [brood program](#). Watch [Video 1](#) again to get talking about conservation.

**May 7:** [Juvenile Sturgeon Release Event](#).

**May 9:** Watch for buoys and boats on the river - they are checking for wild [spawned sturgeon eggs](#). Many recovery programs occur while adult sturgeon are spawning. Follow the NWSRI on [Facebook](#) this month for regular updates.

**May 9-22:** Spawning is happening at the hatchery and the river! Review [Video 2](#) again and read about 'Anna' before exploring further into cellular development in the early life stages of sturgeon.

**June 1:** Summer break is approaching. Now is the time to look ahead at the different developmental stages of sturgeon spawned at the hatchery.

**June 7:** Larval sturgeon feed on micro-organisms and then juveniles feed on aquatic invertebrates. Review how sturgeon eat in [Video 3](#) and link that to what you know about aquatic invertebrates.

**June 27-July 3:** Sturgeon have hatched into [larvae](#). Use 'Stuart' the larval sturgeon to expand on sturgeon development in the early stages.

**July 11-17:** Most of the eggs that were fertilized in May will now be fully formed juvenile sturgeon at roughly 3cm in length!

**June 21:** Over the coming months, be sure to visit the [hatchery for a tour](#) or to visit any of the places where there are [Interpretive signs](#).

**July 19:** The early Stuart River sockeye salmon run. Adult salmon are an important food source for sturgeon. Use the [Nature Guide](#) to learn more.

**August 1 onward:** Check the [website](#) for exact dates and times of tours at the hatchery, as well as other sturgeon related events over the summer.

## BIG IDEAS!

- ✓ Cellular processes
- ✓ Community, the watershed and environment and our place in it.
- ✓ Life stages

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WHEN...

■ Sturgeon
 ■ Salmon
 ■ Mammals
 ■ Invertebrates  
■ School Activity Days
 ■ Community events

## October 2020

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## December 2020

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## February 2021

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## April 2021

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## June 2021

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## August 2021

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Check out the [Inquiry Project](#) examples that accompany each of the Sturgeon Videos

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nechakowhitesturgeon.org

We want to help YOU LEARN about sturgeon. Book a tour at the hatchery; borrow a sturgeon field and/or storm drain kit; download resources from our [website](#); and share your experiences and ideas on our Facebook page [@NWSRI](#), or by emailing [info@nechakowhitesturgeon.org](mailto:info@nechakowhitesturgeon.org).