Unit 3: Nechako
White Sturgeon
Habitat & Food
Sturgeon Life Cycle

What are the specific habitat and food needs for each life cycle stage?
Eggs

Habitat

- CLEAN gravel and rocks (little silt!).
- Fast flowing water.
- Relatively deep water (ideal for spawning adults).
- Water temperature between 14-18°C.

Food

- What are your ideas?
## Eggs

### Habitat

- CLEAN gravel and rocks (no silt!).
- Fast flowing water.
- Relatively deep water (ideal for spawning adults).
- Water temperature between 14-18°C.

### Food

- Yolk in the egg – they are developing inside the egg.
Larvae

Habitat

- CLEAN gravel and rocks.
- Fast flowing water.
- Turbid water – murky. They can hide better from predators in murky water and by hiding in the gravel and rocks.

Food

- What are your ideas?
Larvae

Habitat
- CLEAN gravel and rocks.
- Fast flowing water.
- Turbid water – murky. They can hide better from predators in murky water and by hiding in the gravel and rocks.

Food
- for the first 12 days they feed off yolk sac.
- After 12 days they eat macro-invertebrates!
Macro-invertebrates

**Macro**: small, but can be seen by the naked eye.

**Invertebrate**: has no backbones but has an exoskeleton (protection on the outside of body).
Juveniles

Habitat

- Deep water.
- Slow back eddies.
- Cool areas.
- Fast flowing areas.

Food

- What are your ideas?
Juvenile Habitat

- Deep water.
- Slow back eddies.
- Cool areas.
- Fast flowing areas.

Juvenile Food

- Benthic invertebrates (benthic means on the bottom).
- Small fish, such as sculpin, and fish eggs.
Larval and juvenile sturgeon eat invertebrates.

The type of invertebrates found in a river depends on the amount of pollution in the water.

Here is a scale of invertebrates you find in a healthy creek verses unhealthy creek.

Healthy | In-between | Un-healthy
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snails | Water beetle | leech
caddis fly | Dragonfly
**Adult**

**Habitat**
- Deep water.
- Slow back eddies.
- Cool areas.
- Fast flowing areas.
- Turbid water (for spawning).
- Lakes.

**Food**
- What are your ideas?
Habitat

- Deep water.
- Slow back eddies.
- Cool areas.
- Fast flowing areas.
- Turbid water (for spawning).
- Lakes.

Food

- Large fish, such as salmon and trout.