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

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

1. Eggs
2. Larvae
3. Juvenile
4. Sub-Adult
5. Adult
6. Spawning
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.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Healthy</th>
<th>In-between</th>
<th>Un-healthy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>snails</td>
<td>Water beetle</td>
<td>leech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caddis fly</td>
<td>Dragonfly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Adult

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

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

**Habitat**

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

**Food**

- Large fish, such as salmon and trout.