Name: Date: Score: / 6

Salmon on the Move: Comprehension

Nonfiction: Animals · about 195 words

Read the passage. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

🐟 Salmon on the Move

Every year, salmon take one of the most amazing journeys in the animal world. Pacific salmon are born in cold, freshwater streams. After they hatch, the tiny fish stay in the stream for months or even a year or two. Then they swim downstream, sometimes hundreds of miles, until they reach the salty ocean.

Salmon spend one to several years in the ocean, eating and growing big and strong. Then something remarkable happens. They begin to swim back to the very stream where they were born. Scientists believe salmon use Earth's magnetic field to find their way to the right river. Once they get close, they use their powerful sense of smell to find their home stream.

The trip upstream is exhausting. Salmon must swim against strong currents and leap up waterfalls. Bears wait at the falls to catch them, and eagles swoop down from above. Many salmon do not make it.

The salmon that reach home lay and fertilize their eggs in the gravel. Most Pacific salmon die soon after spawning. Even then, they help the forest. Their bodies feed bears, birds, and insects, and their nutrients enrich the soil for trees along the stream.

1. **Main idea:** What is this passage mostly about?
   A. the life journey of Pacific salmon B. how to go fishing C. how bears catch fish
   D. the plants of the forest

2. **Detail:** Where are Pacific salmon born?
   A. in cold, freshwater streams B. in ponds C. in the deep ocean D. in lakes in the desert

3. **Detail:** How do scientists think salmon find the right river?
   A. using Earth's magnetic field B. by asking other fish C. following boats D. by following the moon

4. **Detail:** What do salmon use when they get close to home?
   A. their fins B. their eyes only C. their sense of smell D. sounds from birds

5. **Vocabulary:** Exhausting means...
   A. very fun B. very tiring C. very easy D. very short

6. **Inference:** How do salmon help the forest even after they die?

ANSWER KEY

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