

SALMONIDS IN THE CLASSROOM: SALMON DISSECTION

STEP 1



GILLS

- Fish breathe by gulping water through their mouth, then close their mouth and throat. The water is forced through the opening in the back of their throat that is lined with gills.
- Gills are very thin, they look like fine, branched structures, like a Christmas tree. This gives the greatest possible surface area to

absorb oxygen from the water.

- Gills are red because they are filled with blood. Oxygen in the water passes into the blood and is carried through their body. Gills are more efficient than lungs at extracting oxygen.



1. Remove the gills on one side of the salmon. Cut through the bone at the top where the gills are joined to the head.



2. Cut through the bone at the bottom where the gills are joined to the head.



3. Lift the back edge (farthest from the mouth) of the gills and cut away from the skin.



4. Each pair of gills has 4 arches, each with a row of gill rakers. These rakers prevent food from entering the gill and instead guide it into the throat.