



Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Chinook Trilogy Curriculum: *Matter of Trust*



Matter of Trust

Matter of Trust, the third installment of the Chinook Trilogy, presents a compelling exploration of the problems that are fueling the crash of Columbia River salmon stocks and serve as a basis for the tribes' salmon recovery plans.

Subject Areas

- Environmental Law
- Environmental Science
- Ethics
- Geography
- History
- Political Science
- Sociology
- Language Arts

Goals and Objectives

- ❶ By viewing the video, students will gain an awareness of the effects various human activities have on salmon and salmon habitat. They will also learn that there is an environmental and ecological cost for what humans call development.
- ❷ Through a role-playing game held during class, student-teams will study, then report to the class the specific effects of human impacts to salmon and salmon habitat, what changes can be made to reduce these impacts, and why such changes are not taking place. The students will then use the information gained during the team presentations to address the question: How can salmon be saved?

Materials Needed

Matter of Trust video.

Assignment #4: Oral Presentations

Resource Guide (optional)

Time Required

2 class periods

Implementation:

Class Period 1

- ❶ Assign members of the class to represent the following Columbia River Basin groups:
 - Columbia River treaty tribes
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (hydrosystem operators)
 - Bonneville Power Administration (agency most responsible for funding salmon restoration)
 - cattle ranchers
 - farmers/Bureau of Reclamation (regulates irrigation)
 - mining companies
 - timber companies/U.S. Forest Service
 - sport and commercial fishers
 - wild card category (instruct students to identify a group not included in the above list)

~5 minutes.
- ❷ Explain to the class that after viewing the video, they as representatives of their assigned groups will be asked to answer three questions in five-minute oral presentations as described in Assignment #4. The oral presentations will be given during the next day's class period. Tell the class that the video *Matter of Trust* provides answers to their assigned questions. Advise the class that further information on the different groups and their effects on salmon or their role in salmon management can be found online or in a library. Consider distributing copies of the Resource Guide to the class.

~5 minutes.



③ Show the video.

~40 minutes.

Class Period 2**④ Hold the oral presentations. Keep each group to about a five-minute limit.****⑤ Homework: Ask the class to answer, in writing, the question, "What can be done to save the salmon?" To prepare the answer, students should recall the oral presentations as well as *Matter of Trust*.
~1 class period.**

GROUP ORAL PRESENTATION

Prepare a five-minute oral presentations answering the following questions:

- **How have current and past activities of your group contributed to the decline of salmon?**
- **What changes could be made to reduce this impact?**
- **Are such changes taking place? If not, why not?**

The video *Matter of Trust* provides most of the answers to the above questions.

