



**Salmon Fry** by John Churchley

**Verse 1**

We started as eggs in a redd,  
It was cosy,  
A warm gravel bed,  
We grew eyes  
In our new little heads.

**Chorus**

But now we're salmon fry  
We grow in stages you can classify  
You can tell by the gleam in our eyes,  
sun in the sky,  
As we're swimming by.

**Verse 2**

We broke out of our little eggs  
We were alevins,  
And we didn't have legs,  
We had a yolk sac,  
So for food we never begged.

**Chorus**

**Bridge**

We'll develop into smolts  
And we'll grow silver scales  
We'll swim down the river,  
Some will follow their tails  
We'll get down to the ocean  
And avoid orca whales  
We'll come back here to spawn  
And we'll finish our tales

**Verse 3**

We'll grow up, and salmon we'll be,  
We'll be happy, and swim in the sea  
If you catch us  
We'll be served as dinner for three.

**Final Chorus:**

We'd be a salmon fry,  
Served with veggies and apple pie  
But 'til then there's the the gleam in our eyes,  
sun in the sky,  
As we're swimming by.  
(quieter) As we're swimming by,  
As we're swimming by,  
'Cause we're salmon fry.

## "Salmon Fry " Lesson Ideas

### **Context**

This style of music is called a "rockabilly shuffle". Rockabilly was a very early type of rock and roll from the 1950's that was a combination of country & western music and rhythm & blues music. Early rockabilly artists were Johnny Cash, Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly, Bill Haley, and others.

The song is grouped in to sets of 4 bar phrases. Each verse/chorus is 16 bars (or 4 phrases) long.

A shuffle is a type of rhythm that is similar to a "galop" or "skipping" pattern.

- try to skip along with the music

### **Thoughts, Feelings, Images**

1. What do you feel when you hear (sing) this song?
2. What movements do the fry make?
3. What other movements/actions do you see in your head when you hear (sing) this song? Do these actions with the song

### **"Elements of Music"**

- Beat:
- show the beat by tapping, knees or other body parts
  - progress to showing the beat by clapping or walking or other large movements
  - Try dancing and making up actions to the song.
  - look up line dancing to see what choreography might fit this song
- Sounds
- What individual sounds do you hear on the accompaniment? Use adjectives, drawings, or other descriptive language if the names of the instruments are not known. All sounds were played on a electronic keyboard. The instruments used are: brass, piano, guitar, bass guitar, and drums.
- Pitch
- Sing the song with the accompaniment
  - sing the song while acting out the part of the salmon in their different stages (e.g. curled up as an egg, breaking out to a "fat" still alevin, swimming as a fry)

### **"Principles of Design"**

- Variety: How are the verses different? (they have different words to tell a story)
- Unity: What is the "story" of the song (Life cycle of the salmon sung by the fry). Which part of each verse is the same? (The notes or pitches)
- Pattern: Circle the rhyming words in each verse. Is there a pattern? Make up a dance/actions that mimes the story, using the SAME action for the chorus. The pattern for this song is Verse Chorus Verse Chorus Bridge Verse Chorus. How could this pattern be changed?