

Nature Adventures Module: Trout

(Highlighted words are found in the Glossary List)

Todd: Many South Dakotans enjoy fishing. Trout fishing is very popular in streams in the Black Hills region of South Dakota. There are 4 kinds of trout in South Dakota: rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, and lake trout.

Terri: Trout are members of the salmon family and can grow quite large. They average about 20 to 30 inches long and around 8 pounds, but can grow as long as 4 feet and weigh up to 53 pounds! Imagine catching one THAT big!

Todd: Trout are usually found in cool, clear streams and lakes. They are distributed naturally throughout North America, northern Asia and Europe. Trout that live in different environments can have dramatically different colorations and patterns. Mostly, these colors and patterns form as **camouflage**, based on the surroundings, and will change as the fish moves to different habitats.

Terri: Trout eat a wide range of things. They generally feed on other fish, and soft bodied aquatic **invertebrates**, such as flies and other bugs. In general, their diets vary according to their age; trout longer than 12 inches prey almost exclusively on fish. Adult trout will devour fish exceeding $\frac{1}{3}$ their length.

Todd: Mature male trout will develop a hook on their lower jaw during **spawning** periods. Spawning is the method in which fish reproduce. The hook they develop is called a kype and it is their badge of power and dominance that is unique to only these species. Think of it as being similar to the rack of a male deer—a sign of a warrior—a sign of strength.

Terri: That's very interesting! Did you know a young trout is referred to as a troutlet or troutling? Trout are not only fun to catch but they are also fun to learn about!

Source:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trout>