

Read the following article and answer the questions.

The Atlantic Sturgeon of the Hudson River



The Atlantic sturgeon is the largest fish in the Hudson **River**. Adults are often five to eight feet long. Is that bigger than you are? The biggest Atlantic sturgeon on record was caught in Canada. Fourteen feet long, it weighed eight hundred pounds! That equals the weight of 15 fourth graders!

Sturgeons have rows of bony plates along their bodies, and a mouth like a vacuum cleaner. They eat crabs, mussels, worms, and insects on the bottom.

The Atlantic sturgeon is born in **fresh water** and spends the first years of its life in the Hudson. Then this fish swims out into the Atlantic Ocean. **Scientists** know little about how the sturgeon spends its time at sea except that it does travel far. Hudson River sturgeons have been found as far south as North Carolina and as far north as Massachusetts.

When Atlantic sturgeons are teenagers, they swim back up the Hudson into fresh water. There they lay eggs; this behavior is called **spawning**. Then the fish return to the ocean. This journey back and forth between river and sea is an example of **migration**. Atlantic sturgeons repeat this migration every three years for the rest of their lives. They can live more than sixty years.

Like the Atlantic sturgeon, the Hudson's striped bass and American shad are born in fresh water, swim out into the ocean, and then migrate back to the river to spawn. This is called an **anadromous** life cycle.

1. This article is **mostly about**
 - a. fish that lay eggs
 - b. a fish called the Atlantic sturgeon
 - c. different shapes and sizes of fish
 - d. striped bass and American shad

2. What does it mean to be an **anadromous** fish?
 - a. a fish that eats at the bottom of the river
 - b. a fish that lives more than sixty years
 - c. an animal living in the water
 - d. a fish that migrates between fresh water and the ocean

3. What does it mean for fish to **spawn**?
 - a. fish swim to the ocean
 - b. fish swim into the Hudson River
 - c. fish lay eggs
 - d. fish eat crabs, mussels, worms, and insects

4. According to the article, which of these statements are true?
 - a. The Atlantic sturgeon is the largest fish in the Hudson. _____
 - b. The Atlantic sturgeon spawns in the Atlantic Ocean. _____
 - c. The Atlantic sturgeon dies after spawning only once. _____
 - d. The Atlantic sturgeon is an anadromous fish. _____



Scientists caught and released this young Atlantic sturgeon near Haverstraw, New York. It had not yet left the Hudson for the ocean.