Fin Trading Is In

The Bonneville cutthroat trout is the State fish of Utah. The trout's habitat is threatened by many disturbances. Many of the locations that would have been perfect to hold the biathlon and nordic combined ski events for the 2002 Games were also areas where streams contained Bonneville cutthroat trout. If these natural areas were developed for the ski events, the trout's habitat would be further disturbed. What do you think might happen to some of Utah's State fish? What do you think the 2002 Games planners decided to do? They did the best thing for the trout and found a site that was great for skiing and wasn't home to any sensitive animal species! By doing it this way, even the trout can win!

FACTivity

In order to learn about trout habitat, the scientists in this study had to learn how to carefully observe and record their observations. In this FACTivity, you will learn how to improve your observation skills. Bring a natural object for observation, such as a stick, rock, or a leaf to class. Place the item on your desk in front of you. Just sit and observe the item. What color is it? Is it the same color all over? What shape is it? What else can you observe about the item? Write down everything you observe about the item. Use the chart below as a sample. You may have many more than five observations! After you have finished observing your own item, choose another student as a partner to exchange your item with. Repeat your observation using your partner's item.

Compare your observations with those of your partner. How are they similar? How are they different? What does this tell you about observation? Have a class discussion about how observations of the same item can be similar and different. Why do you think observations of the same item may be different for different people?

From Young, Michael K.; Meyer, Kevin A; Isaak, Daniel J.; and Wilkison, Richard A. (1998). Habitat selection and movement by individual cutthroat trout in the absence of competitors. *Journal of Freshwater Ecology*, 13(4): 371-378.

Website:
http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/main/labs/laramie/rmrs4352.html

Sample chart for recording observations.

Name of object:	
Observation 1:	
Observation 2:	
Observation 3:	
Observation 4:	
Observation 5:	