

WILD TROUT TRUST

# The Brown Trout Life Cycle

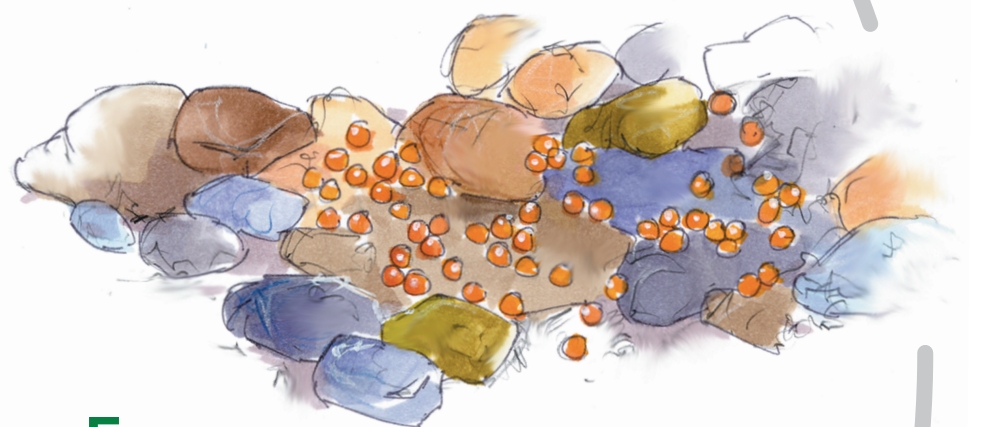


## Adults

Adult trout have a territory that gives them a good supply of food and a place to hide from predators, preferring deeper pools. In winter, they migrate, perhaps miles upriver, to spawn. Brown trout live up to 5-20 years.

## Spawning

Between November and February a female brown trout digs a nest or redd in gravel shallows. As she releases her eggs, they are fertilised by the male and then covered with gravel. The gravels must be 10-40mm in size, loose and free of silt with plenty of oxygen rich water flowing through them.



## Eggs

Eggs, 2-5mm in diameter, hatch into alevins in a few months, depending on temperature.



## Alevins

Alevins stay in the gravel, living off the yolk sac. They then emerge as fry, set up territories and grow into parr.



## Parr

Fry and parr are territorial and solitary. They need plenty of cover in the river from stones, weed and trailing bankside plants, and shallow water that is not too fast flowing. Only around 5% of young trout survive their first year of life.