

European Eels Lesson Pack: Teacher Notes

Level: Suitable for Levels 2 and early 3 and can be adapted for Level 1. The ‘Story of Ellie the Eel’ animation can be used as a stand-alone resource for Early or Level 1 classes.

Length: The presentation is designed to be broken down into four shorter lessons if required, with a worksheet activity for given for each section. Stop the presentation at each Activity to break the presentation down into four separate sections.

Section 1: Ellie the Eel animation – Introduction and Journey - approx 6 minutes plus activity

Section 2: Life cycle - 4 minutes plus activity

Section 3: Challenges and Threats - 4 minutes plus activity

Section 4: What can we do to help? - 6 minutes plus activity*

*NB – Section 4 should be resumed again after the Activity break until the end of the recording.

Curriculum for Excellence links:

Science:

- Biodiversity and Interdependence (levels 1 and 2 – food chains and ecosystems: SCN 1-02a, 2-01a, 2-02a)
 - I can demonstrate a simple food chain
 - I can give examples of how living things depend on each other for food
- Inheritance (level 2 – lifecycles and metamorphosis: SCN 2-14a)
 - I can recognise and demonstrate the different stages in a life-cycle

Suggested Topic Webs:

- Under the Sea (level 1)
- Scottish Wildlife (level 1)
- Oceans and Seas (level 2)
- Endangered Animals (level 2)

Learning for Sustainability:

This resource provides a great starting point for discussion around ecosystems, conservation, climate change and how we can act locally to improve sustainability. It is particularly useful for moving from a micro (local) to macro (global) view through the story of a single species.

It links to the **Global Goals**, specifically - 12: Responsible Production and Consumption; 13: Climate Action and 14: Life Below Water

Developing Young Workforce:

The resource is written and presented by Abbie Nye, an example of a young adult starting out in a STEM career. It can be used to start discussion on the kinds of skills and knowledge needed and the benefits of this kind of work, promoting STEM and environment careers in Scotland.

Suggested IDL Activities:

Issue tree – children create an ‘issue tree’ exploring the causes, effects and possible solutions to the threat to the European Eel, or other aquatic life - <https://wosdec.org.uk/methodologies/issue-trees/>

Create an ‘interdependence-web’ – using string, or on paper, explore how the eels are part of a wider ecosystem – what happens if one part of this system is changed or taken away?

<https://www.ltl.org.uk/resources/interdependence-in-food-webs/>

Investigate freshwater invertebrates: spotting, classifying, recording – using keys, recording data, analysing data. Use nets and kick-sampling to investigate small aquatic life in a burn or stream. A freshwater invertebrate ID guide can be found here <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/research-centres-and-groups/opal/WATER-4pp-chart.pdf>

Mapping and measurement – investigate the distance travelled by the eels, scale the distances and demonstrate in the playground / outside.

Art and design - create a display showing the eel life cycle or journey

Drama and story-telling – create a piece of drama telling the story of the eels’ journey and the challenges it faces on the way – include narration and different children to play the part of the eels and the threats they face.

Literacy - write the story of the eel from the eel’s perspective, in first person narrative, or a piece of persuasive writing on why we need to care about the European Eel.

Technology – design a way to help eels get over the obstacles they find on their way up-river, experiment with different materials and make models to test in water.

Link to the Eels and Ladders game referred to at the end of the presentation:

<https://forthriverstrust.org/eels-and-ladders/>

Further Information:

Galloway Fisheries Trust are available to visit Dumfries and Galloway schools, Covid-19 restrictions permitting, or to arrange field trips. Please contact jamie@gallowayfisheriestrust.org for more information.

Feedback: We would welcome your feedback on this resource – please fill in the form on the European eel webpage and email to: jamie@gallowayfisheriestrust.org

This resource was designed and created by Abbie Nye, Galloway Fisheries Trust

This creation of this resource was supported by the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership.

Teacher notes created by Mary Smith