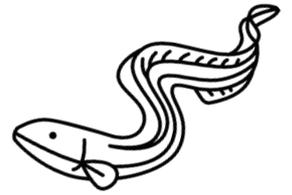


Mini Park Rangers



Eels

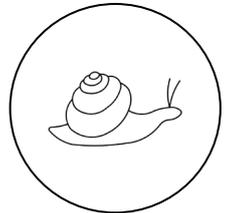
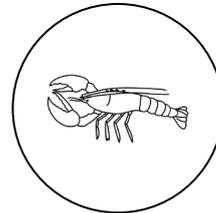
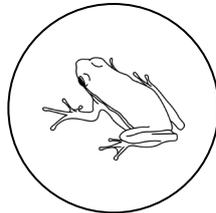
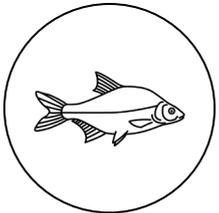
One very interesting creature that is found in the waterways at Sydney Olympic Park, that you may be able to see swimming up nice and close to waters edge is an eel!



Eels like to live in lakes, waterways, rivers and wetlands. They can be found along the Eastern Coast of Australia and around nearby islands too. Most of the eels found in Sydney Olympic Park start their lives in the Coral Sea.

Eel larvae are tiny creatures that are shaped like a leaf. They get carried by the current and transform into longer eels that look like glass. Over time they gain colour and grow much larger!

What do Eels eat?



Eels mainly eat other fish, small birds, insects, frogs, yabbies and snails. So when you are visiting areas with water and you see eels, make sure you don't try to feed them. There is plenty of great food already in the water for them!

Migration

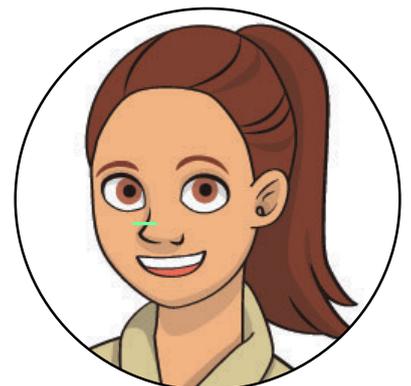
Many eels and other fish need to migrate during their life cycle. In Bicentennial Park a stepped or graded channel, known as The Fishway allows native eels and fish to easily travel from the Parramatta River, up Powels Creek, into Lake Belvedere and back again.

Next time you visit Bicentennial Park, look for the Fish artwork, called Migration and explore the boardwalks in the fishway area. You can discover for yourself how fish move between the lower creek to the higher lake.



Hey Mini Park Rangers..... Did you know?

The Aboriginal word for eel is 'burra' and the word for place is 'matta'. When we put those words together they make Burramatta, which is a place we know in in Sydney called Parramatta. This helps us understand why we see lots of eels in and around the Parramatta River.



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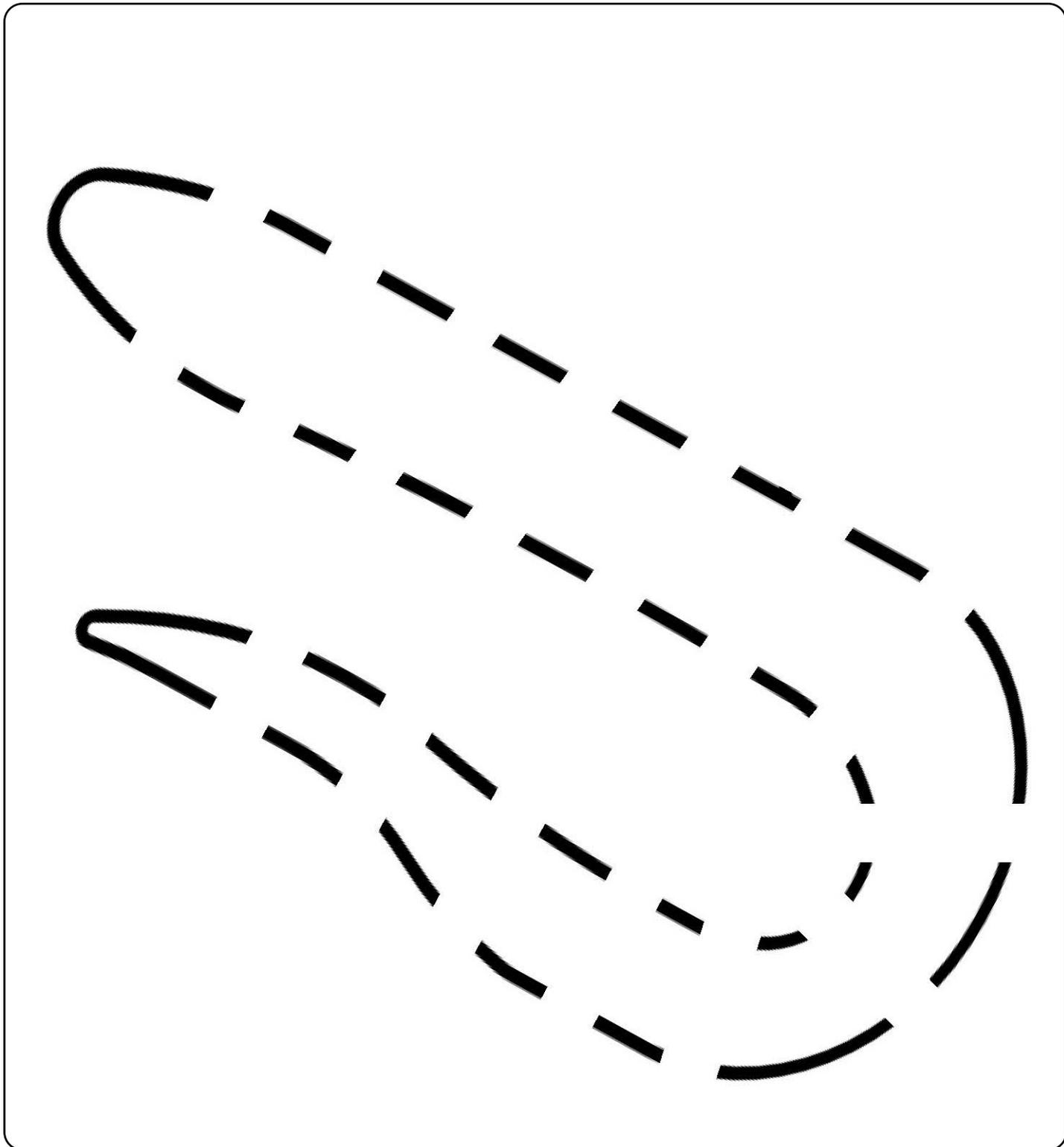
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Eel Drawing Activity

Activity:

1. Start by tracing the body of the eel. Draw in the fins and eye and then colour and decorate!



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