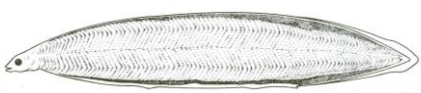


Growing Up as an American Eel

Could you find your way to a place you have not seen in twenty years?
Without a map? The American eel can.

In the Sargasso Sea, a tiny **eel** is born. Just hatched from an egg, it looks like a piece of tape. Clear as glass. Only a few inches long.

Eel larvae



* ACTUAL SIZE *

How long is the baby eel larvae? Take out a ruler and measure!

Drifting across the sea, the eel begins its **journey**. It makes its way towards the Hudson River, changing along the way. The baby eel now looks like a tiny piece of spaghetti. Only two inches long, at this stage of its **life cycle** this fish is called a **glass eel**. You can actually see right through it!



Glass eels



Elvers

After about one year, the eel reaches the Hudson. It will change again. Its body becomes green, brown, or yellow. At this stage of the eel's life cycle, it is called an **elver**.

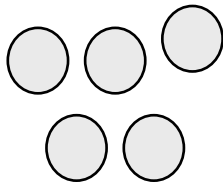
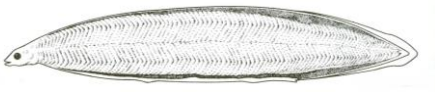
Elvers live in the river for 10 years or more. There they grow into adult eels, reaching lengths up to four feet! When eels are big and strong, they swim back to the Sargasso Sea where they were born. Here eels finish their life cycle. They will lay eggs and then die.



Adult eel

Follow the directions to make an American eel life cycle.

- 1. Cut out the pictures of the eel's life cycle.
- 2. Arrange the pictures in **the correct order** on the paper provided.
- 3. Paste pictures.
- 4. Fill in the blank lines with the names of the stages of the eel's life cycle: eggs, baby eel, glass eel, elver, adult



Name: _____

5

1

2

American Eel
Life Cycle

4

3