



The story of the European eel

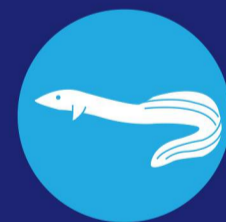
Baby eels, called elvers, reach our rivers in the spring each year they are already two years old. They have been on an incredible journey having travelled about 6,000 km from the Sargasso Sea, in the North Atlantic Ocean, to our rivers in the UK.



When they arrive they are completely transparent, like thin strings of glass, and are very small. Over the coming weeks they start to change colour, developing brown coloured backs and silver bellies, starting to look like the eels we all know.



The elvers head up the rivers looking for streams, ditches, lakes or ponds, where they can live for as long as 40 years, whilst growing into adult silver eels.



Once the silver eels reach maturity they get the urge to begin their huge journey back to the Sargasso Sea. This journey starts in the autumn, and sees the silver eels leaving our rivers to return to the place where they were born. When they reach the Sargasso Sea they spawn, and the life cycle starts all over again.

