

EELS! TRAPS AND TALES

UNDER 5s ACTIVITY



WHAT IS AN EEL TRAP?

An eel trap is like a long basket. One end is big, and the other end is small, like a funnel. Eels swim into the big end because it feels dark and safe. Inside, the space gets smaller and smaller. Eels can swim forward, but not backward. They can't find the tiny hole to get out, so they stay inside. It's a smart trap!

ABOUT THE ARTIST

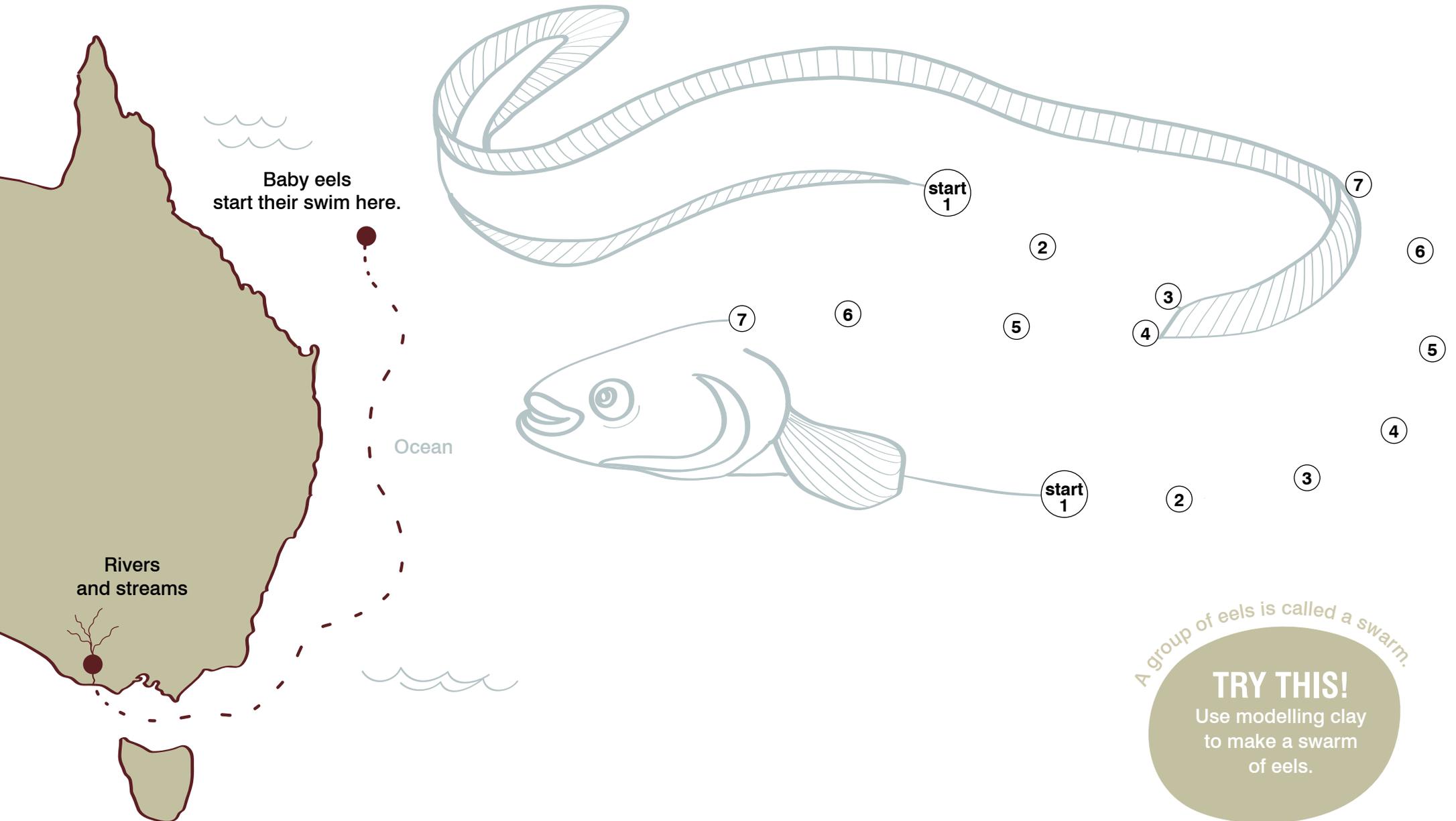
Aunty Dot Peters was a kind Yarra Yarra elder, and everyone called her Aunty Dot. She was born in Melbourne in 1930 and grew up in Healesville. Her grandmother taught her how to weave baskets and make eel traps from reeds and grass.

Aunty Dot loved fishing and swimming in Badger's Creek and learned to care for the land and animals. When she grew up, she became a teacher and taught children about Aboriginal history and culture. She was loved by many people because she shared her knowledge with kindness and helped everyone learn to respect each other.



Dot Peters *Eel trap*, 2004. National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne.
Purchased with funds donated by Supporters and Patrons of Indigenous Art, 2004. © Dot Peters.

Baby eels travel thousands of kilometres from the ocean, riding currents along the coast of Australia to find their way to rivers and streams. Complete this drawing of an eel by joining the dots.



A group of eels is called a swarm.

TRY THIS!
Use modelling clay to make a swarm of eels.