



# Bradán's Makes Her Way into the Estuary

## THE SALMON AS A SMOLT

In the last lesson, you learned that Bradán has developed into a **smolt** (teenager). This is a time of great change for her. Her body is trying to adjust from fresh water to salt water and she can feel quite uncomfortable.

Life is busy down in the estuary and the water isn't always clean. Bradán is surrounded by factories, and industrial and housing estates. Some farmers have been careless with milk spills and slurry and poisons have seeped into the water.

Look at the picture and find all the activities that might impact on life in an estuary and on the coast.

**Can you notice a black oil slick? From where do you think it is coming?**

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**What other creatures in the picture could be in danger?**

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**Why?** \_\_\_\_\_



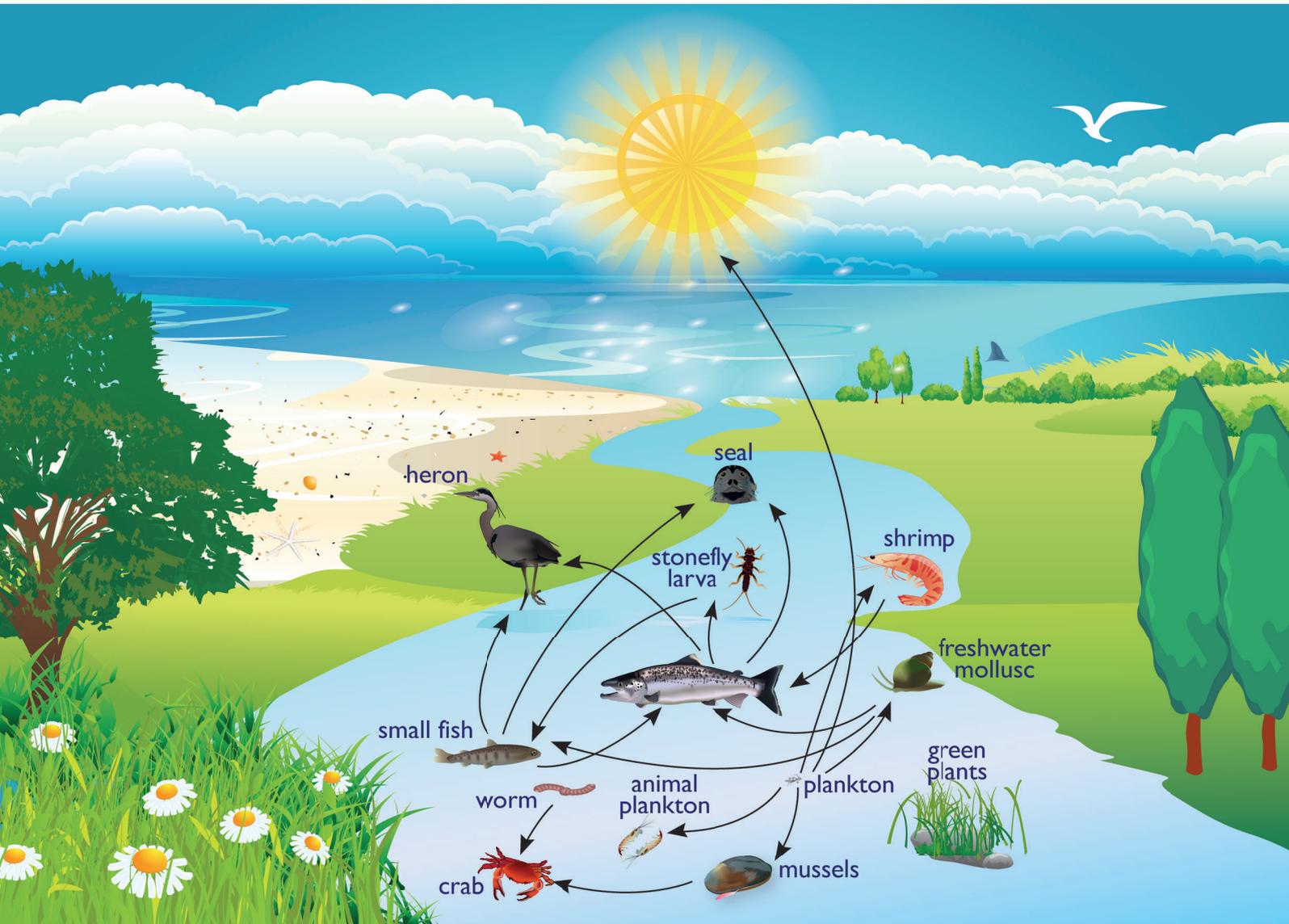
# Activity Card



## ESTUARY FOOD WEB

The estuary or mouth of the river is a particularly dangerous area for salmon, as this is where most fishing is done. Salmon returning from the sea are caught here in a variety of ways - rod and reel, drift nets, salmon traps and fixed cages. A drift net is a long curtain of net hanging from the surface in which the salmon become enmeshed.

**This is an estuary food web.**



**Can you make a food chain with the following links?**

Small fish, human, floating animals, sun, floating plants, large fish

SUN → [ ] → [ ] → [ ] → [ ] → [ ]

## Activity Card



Bradán is now used to the salt water so she will be better able to continue her journey into the open sea.

**Can you recall what colour the salmon is now?**

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She hopes a lot of salt will not affect her blood pressure!  
**Is a lot of salty food good for humans?**

**Name some salty foods**

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Write a letter to the editor of “The Ballypolluted Examiner” explaining the damage that is being done suggesting some ways the people of the area might improve the water quality and ensure fish stocks for the future - they might even rename the town “Ballyclean”.

This passage from *The Iron Woman* by Ted Hughes.

“And now Hogarth saw things quite clearly, as Lucy did. In every cry of the terrific roaring blast, it seemed to him that he could see a wild face, a mouth stretched wide, a body hunched up. Even though he was simply gazing at the far edge of the sea, it was as if he were looking through the earth, and seeing it crammed full of every possible kind of creature – all screaming, wailing with all their might, where the tiniest shrimp sounded like a mad elephant and sticklebacks sounded like trapped tigers and slim black leeches like bellowing alligators.”

**What is wrong with the wildlife? Why are they screaming?  
Read the rest of chapter 3 to find out.  
Read the full story to find out why the Iron Woman is angry.**

