

Rewilding Trail

Colour me in!

What is rewilding?

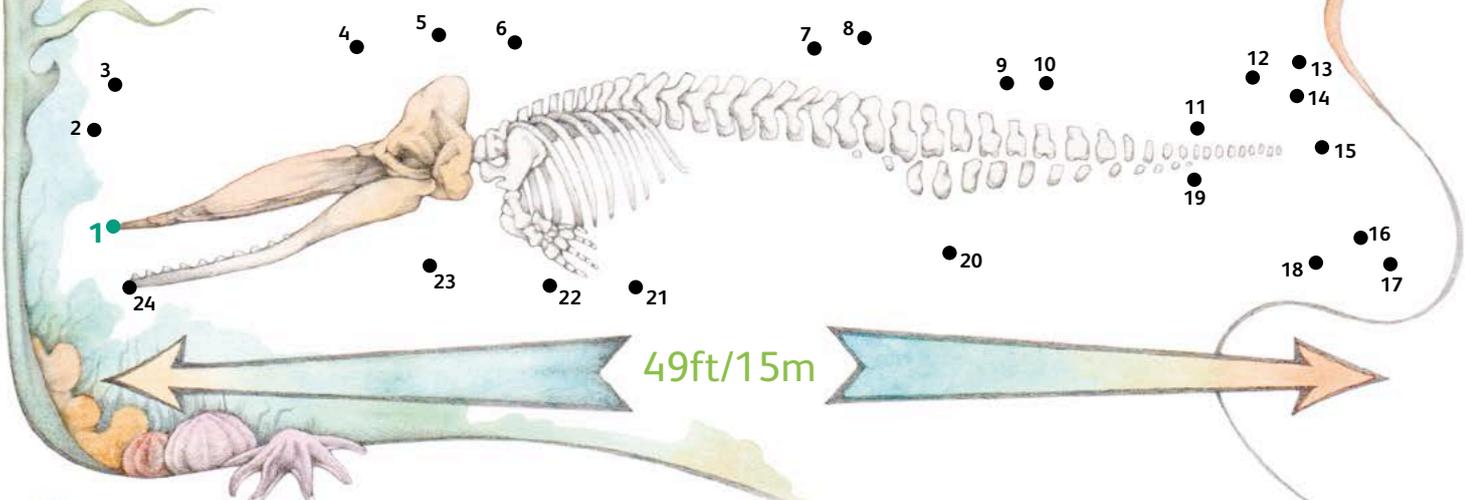
Over the years human activity has meant there are fewer spaces for wildlife. Rewilding is the idea of letting nature take back some of these spaces.

Take a wild walk through our galleries and find some Scottish animals being helped by rewilding.

Start on Level 1 – Grand Gallery

Spot the sperm whale skull

I am coming back to Scottish waters now hunting is banned. Marine Protection Areas are also helping towards rewilding Scotland's seas by protecting animals and habitats from harm.



? How far across the Grand Gallery would the end of the whale's tail be?
Start at the tip of the jaw and take one big step per metre to measure it.



Swim along to Level 1 – Animal World gallery

Spot the Atlantic Salmon

I mostly live in the sea but I need to go to clean, calm rivers to lay my eggs.

 How many eggs can you count?

Prowl up to Level 3 – Animal Sense gallery

Track the wolf

I haven't been in Scotland for hundreds of years now. Some people want me back to help stop the deer eating all the trees, but some people are worried I might also eat sheep.

 Can you think of a way to keep everyone happy?



Pad up to Level 5 – Survival gallery

Can you spy the wildcat?

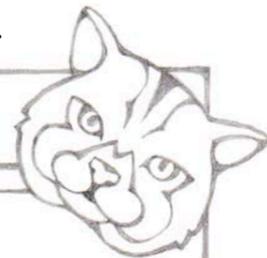
I can still be found in Scotland but fewer forests and hybridisation (when wildcats breed with pet cats) put me at risk. Scientists, like those at the museum, are helping to protect me.

Name 2 similarities and 1 difference between a wildcat and pet cat.

Similarity 1:

Similarity 2:

Difference:



Next, find the beaver

I was reintroduced to Scotland after being hunted to extinction several hundred years ago. My dams help to slow down the river and make wetland habitats for lots of other animals.

 The way I cut trees helps them to grow. Draw new shoots and leaves coming out of the stump.

Can you also spot the White-tailed Eagle?

I became extinct in the UK in 1918, but started to be successfully reintroduced from 1975. Now there are over 100 breeding pairs in Scotland.

 My wingspan can be between 200-240cm!
Find an object in the museum that matches your "wingspan".

Put these words in the right place

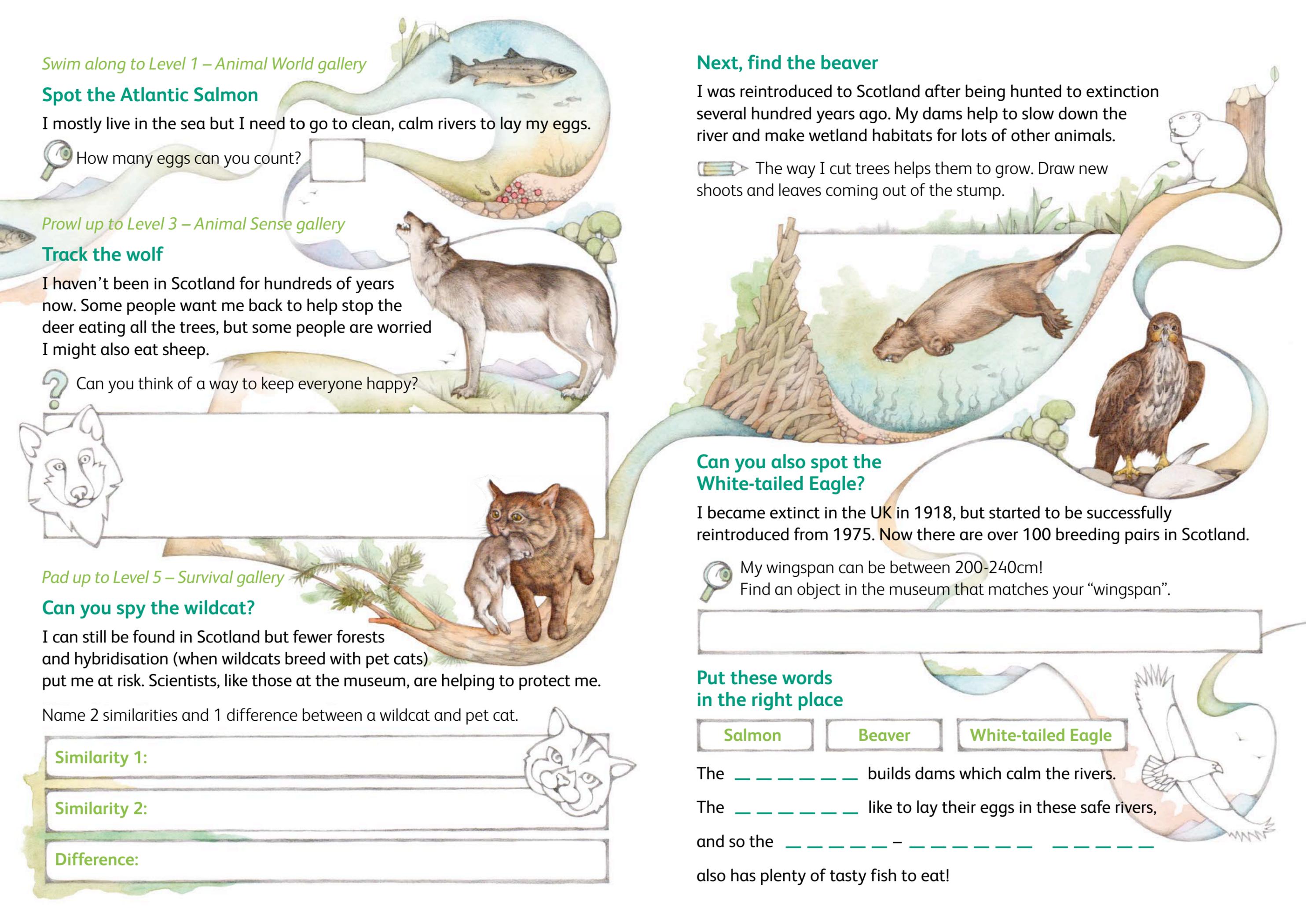
Salmon

Beaver

White-tailed Eagle

The _____ builds dams which calm the rivers.

The _____ like to lay their eggs in these safe rivers,
and so the _____
also has plenty of tasty fish to eat!



You don't need forests or oceans to do some rewilding – even a window box of native wildflowers will help our insect pollinators and birds. Take this trail home to have a go at the activity below and try making your own rewilding area!



Match the animal to the feature that helps it.



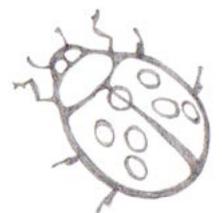
Well done, you've finished our trail!

Now have a go at some of our online activities, like going on a bug safari at www.nms.ac.uk/explore-our-collections/resources/bug-safari



Or look at some more of Scotland's animals at the museum using google streetview.

◀ Scan me!



Answers: Page 1. The end of the whale's tail would be near the Statue of Arensnuphis! Page 2. Eight eggs. Page 3. The Beaver builds dams which calm the rivers. The Salmon like to lay their eggs in these safe rivers, and so the White-tailed Eagle also has plenty of tasty fish to eat! Page 4. Hedgehog – hole in the fence, bee – flowers, frog – pond.