



## Activity 3

# Saltmarsh Nurseries

### Equipment required:

- Copy of 'Presentation 3: Saltmarsh Nurseries' and device to share with learners
- Print out of S\_SM\_2, one per pair
- Scissors
- Glue
- Paper or notebooks for recording ideas
- Internet enabled devices and internet access

### To complete the activity:

1. (Slide 4) As a whole class, discuss whether a saltmarsh would make a good nursery for young fish. Why do learners think this?

Make a note of key features on the board or a shared screen. Suggestions may include:

- Shallow water
- Invertebrates to feed on
- Hiding places between grasses
- Other young fish or birds nearby

2. (Slide 5) In pairs, ask learners to imagine they are a young fish living in a saltmarsh.

**Give them 3 minutes** to draw or jot down their ideas. They can include things like:

- What can they see?
- What would they eat?
- Where would they hide?
- Who might be nearby – a friend or a threat?

3. (Slide 6) Give each pair of learners a copy of S\_SM\_2.

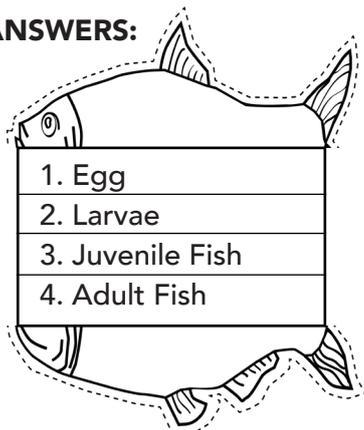
This includes a fish template, its life cycle stages, and matching descriptions.

4. Ask learners to cut out the fish, life cycle stages and their descriptions. Support them to put the stages in the correct order, discussing changes in size, location, diet, or threats over time.

5. Encourage learners to glue the life cycle stages onto the fish template.

Support them to fold along the lines to create their finished life cycle foldout.

### ANSWERS:



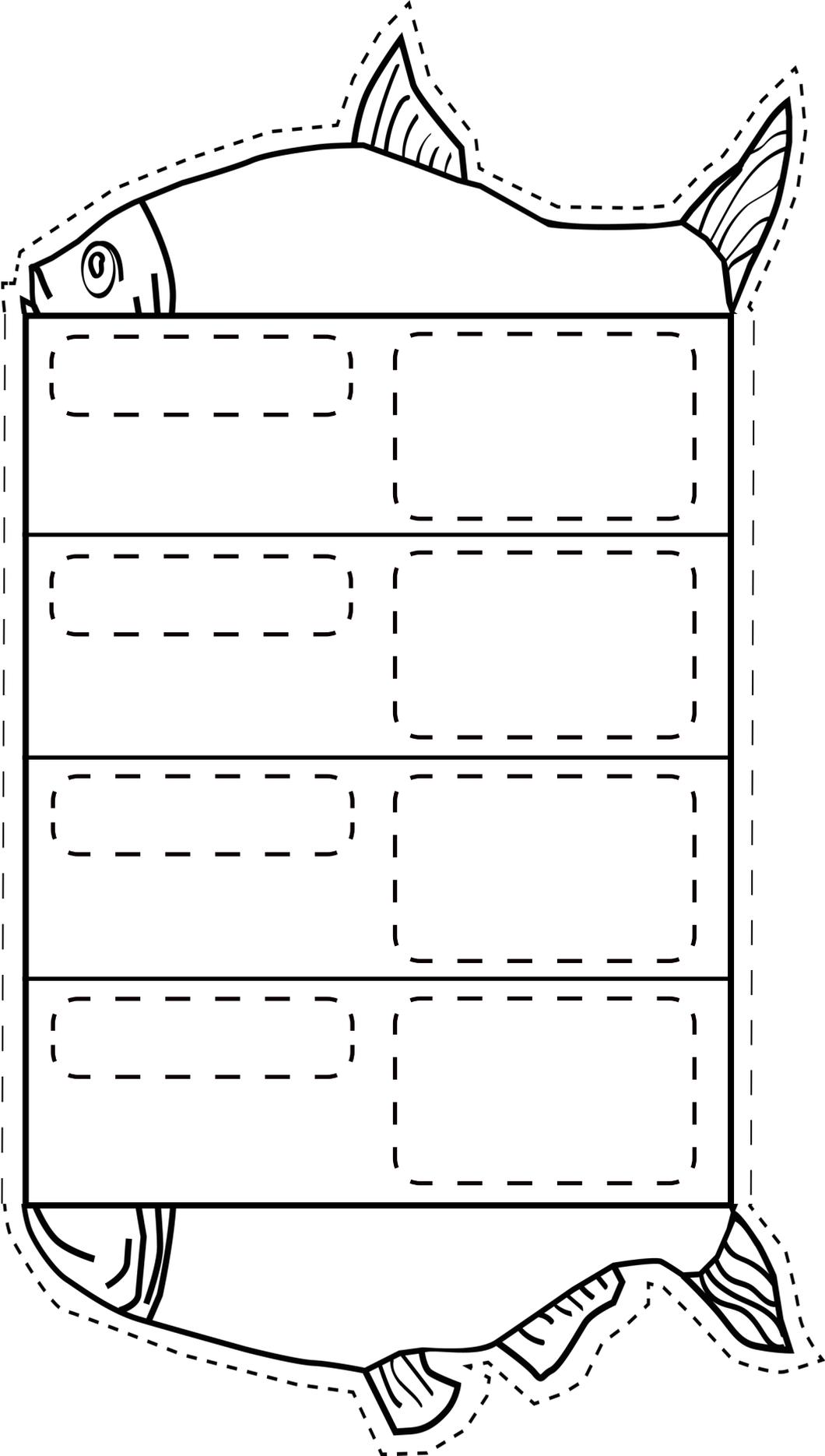
### ADDITIONAL TASK *Optional*

(Slide 7) Challenge learners to design a perfect saltmarsh nursery for young fish.

They can draw and label their habitat or create a simple 3D model.

Encourage them to include features like food sources, safe hiding places, shallow water, and ways the habitat protects the fish from danger. Encourage learners to present their designs and explain how each part helps the fish survive.

# Saltmarsh Nurseries



**Egg**

**Adult Fish**

**Larvae**

**Juvenile Fish**

*Tiny, drifting larvae hatch from eggs. They feed on plankton and are very vulnerable to predators.*

*Small fish grow quickly, feeding on small invertebrates and hide amongst plants.*

*Fully grown fish live in deeper waters. They migrate, feed and return to spawn.*

*Fish eggs are laid in shallow coastal waters or estuaries. They are sticky and attach to seaweed or gravel.*