



Encyclopedia of Life

Podcast Guide for Educators

Our Podcast of Life and One Species at a Time podcast series provide a chance to dive into the world of biodiversity where you and your students can witness science in action through lively, you-are-there stories. They're perfect 5-minute long audio-rich ways to jumpstart the beginning of a lesson plan or supplement an existing unit. Many educators are using the podcasts with their students in both classroom and informal settings. This guide will help you learn about the podcasts and how to utilize the resources that accompany them.

In this guide you will find:

Podcasts:

An overview of the podcasts and features of each episode:

- Podcast audio
- Participation
- Meet the Scientists page
- Extras Page
- Educational materials

Using the Podcasts:

How educators are using the podcasts with their students

Feedback:

Let us know what you think!

About the Podcasts

The Encyclopedia of Life Podcast series are hosted by Ari Daniel Shapiro and brought to you by the Encyclopedia of Life, and Atlantic Public Media.

Where to find them:

The podcast are available at:

Encyclopedia of Life: <http://education.eol.org/podcast>

iTunes: <http://itunes.apple.com/podcast/one-species-at-a-time/id386954489>

Podcasts

Podcast Home Page



The podcast home page can be found at: <http://education.eol.org/podcast> and provides an archive of all of our podcast episodes. On this page you will find a thumbnail image, description of the podcast episode and a link to the related species page on the Encyclopedia of Life. Click on **Click here for the full description, podcast file and other features** to go to the podcast.

Individual Podcasts

On this page you will find the full description of the podcast episode as well as the podcast audio file. Click on the **Play** icon to hear the podcast.

As you are listening to the podcast, you can click on the options under the **Learn More** heading to expand the following pages:

- Meet the Scientists
- Extras
- Educational Materials

Meet the Scientist Pages

Each podcast features scientists, citizen scientists, enthusiasts or students or a combination of them all! Here you will find an interview with the scientists describing what they do and what they love about science as well as pictures of them in the field.

This page also offers students the opportunity to “Ask the Scientist” a question. Look for the **Ask a Question** text in the introduction on the top of the page. Clicking on the link will lead you to a contact form where you can submit questions. We will pick 3-4 questions for each scientist to answer and post them on the Meet the Scientist page in the following weeks. If having students email individually is not possible, teachers can compile questions from the class and send them in one email using the form. Please put “Meet the Scientist” in the subject line.

Participation

At the end of each podcast there is a “call out” or challenge. Our host Ari asks listeners to contribute their ideas and answers. On each individual podcast page under the “Participate” heading the call out from the podcast is listed. Also, here you will find three ways to share your ideas and answers.

1. Call us toll free at: 1.888.285.1224
2. Use our online recorder
3. Call us on Skype: To call us on Skype search for the EOL Podcast Recorder. Or, use the links provided to find us on Skype and add us to your contacts

Leaving a message using our toll free number, Skype or the online recorder gives us permission to use it in our podcast and on our website.

We often post responses to the call outs on our website or will use the messages in future podcasts.

Extras Page

On the **Extras** pages you will find intriguing extras: segments our producers weren't able to fit into a five-minute podcast as well as images, interesting facts and ways to get involved or in touch with biodiversity wherever you live. This page is expandable from the podcast episode page, so you can listen to the podcast as you explore.

Features on the extras page may include:

- Extra Audio clips
- Image slide shows
- Video
- Google Earth Tours
- Audio slide shows
- Facts about the species from the related Encyclopedia of Life species page
- Current related news stories
- Ways to participate in Citizen Science activities

Educational Materials

The first 13 podcast episodes are in the Podcast of Life series and focus on marine biodiversity. They have accompanying educational materials from a consortium of marine education network partners. Each activity also covers one or more of the Ocean Literacy principles.

The following podcasts have linked educational materials:

- Marine Iguana
- Chinook Salmon
- Mangroves
- Riftia
- Dinoflagellates
- Giant Squid
- Coral
- Atlantic Bluefin Tuna
- Polar Bear
- Box Jellies
- Great White Shark
- Sea Cucumbers
- North Atlantic Right Whale

Using the Podcasts

How educators are using the podcasts with their students

Ages 5-10 (Elementary)

- As part of animal studies
- Listening station activity
- As an addition to reading about species (e.g., Polar Bears) and learning facts about them
- To help students learn English

Ages 11-13 (Middle School)

- For learning about the diversity of sea life
- Teaching Life Science focusing on endangered species
- Students listen and summarize the podcast orally or in writing
- Listen to the podcasts before an activity related to the species (e.g., listening to the Giant Squid episode before a squid dissection lab)

Ages 14-18 (High School)

- Independent study
- As a warm up activity
- To learn about RSS Feeds and podcasting
- Listen as an introduction to an organism. Students generate questions to ask and thoughts about making their own podcasts.
- As a way to introduce phyla in an AP Biology Course
- Students listen as part of a homework assignment and write a reflection
- Students listen to the podcasts and learn about the Encyclopedia of Life. One teacher is having her students make podcasts, videos and web pages on taxonomic groups and is creating an Encyclopedia of Life for her school.
- Use the podcasts as a way to open class discussions
- A way to introduce current issues, such as coral bleaching

Ages 18+ (College)

- A way to introduce podcasts to teachers as a classroom activity- making them or incorporating them into a unit.

Feedback

How are you using our podcasts with your students? What do you think can be improved? Let us know! Email your comments, suggestions and comments to: education@eol.org

Thank you!