

The Significance of Kiawenrón:ko/Eels from Haudenosaunee and Science Perspectives

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Cultural Significance

- Ceremonial purpose and medicine to the people



- A being of creation with a duty to fulfill

- Respect for all beings we share this earth with

- Passed on stories and teachings

- Maintaining our relationship with the natural and spiritual world

Health Benefits

- **Skin:** heals wounds and treatment for arthritis
- **Fat:** reduces risk of heart disease and limits risk of diabetes
- Eels are high in various vitamins and minerals
- Excellent indicators of habitat integrity and can signal the vulnerability of other species within an ecosystem



Clan Families

**Kiawenrón:ko/
Eel is one of 9 clan families within the
Haudenosaunee Nation**



“People of the eel clan are very respectful and protective of the water and the land. They are a responsible, compassionate people who carry themselves well and take nothing for granted. Their relationship with the natural world gives them the wisdom to know that water is the most precious resource the earth possesses”

Art work by: Brandon Lazore



Eels have a duty to clean and purify the waters. However, they are unable to fulfill their duties due to human made structures blocking their path.

Dam Construction Consequences

- Cultural association with a fish is lost
- Everywhere eels existed historically, Indigenous groups would have used eels
- Issue of Indigenous rights
- When eels disappear from a region, an important piece of inter-generational knowledge stops being transferred



Lost Connections

