WHAT'S ON TODAY



THIRTEEN

8 P.M. (13, 49) THE MYSTERY OF EELS

Snakelike and slimy, with a row of jagged teeth and, in some cases, a life span of more than 100 years, the eel is one of the natural world's few enigmas, with little known about where it goes, what it does and how it dies. In this "Nature" episode the naturalist James Prosek tries to shed light on this creature, above, christened "the North Sea siren" and "love's arrow on earth" by the Italian poet Eugenio Montale. In "Australia's First 4 Billion Years: Life Explodes," on "Nova" at 9, Richard Smith investigates fossils for clues as to how arthropods invaded that barren continent from the ocean and spawned life on land. And "Guts With Michael Mosley," at 10, explores the human digestive tract.