



FISH

KINGDOM: ANIMALIA PHYLUM: CHORDATA

DID YOU KNOW?

There are over 23,000 species of marine fish!

DID YOU KNOW?

Bony fish have very flexible fins compared to cartilaginous fish.

DID YOU KNOW?

Parrotfish sleep in a slime sleeping bag that they make themselves everynight.

DID YOU KNOW?

Eels and seahorses can swim backwards!

SOMETHING FISHY!

Fish is the general term used to describe a huge group of animals that live in water and have a backbone, cold blood, gills and fins. There are three main groups of fish; bony fish (e.g. salmon), cartilaginous fish (e.g. sharks and rays) and jawless fish (e.g. hagfishes).

BREATHING AND FLOATING

Fish use gills to breathe the oxygen in water. Water flows over the gills from pairs of flap like openings on a fish's head. Bony fish have one gill opening while sharks and rays have 5-7.

Fish are heavier than water! To help them stay afloat bony fish have an air filled sac called a swim bladder, and sharks have a large oily liver.

SCALES AND SLIME

Most fish are covered in thin overlapping plates, called scales, which protect their skin. On top of these scales is a layer of slime! Slime helps fish to swim faster and stay healthy by acting as a barrier to parasites and a liquid bandaid!

Instead of scales a shark's body is covered in tiny 'skin teeth'! These teeth make a sharks skin feel like sandpaper.

FINS

Fish have 5 sets of fins each with its own role. The side fins are normally used for steering, the tail for propulsion and the other fins for stability.

FAST OR SLOW?

The shape of a fishes tail can tells us how fast it usually swims. Fish with forked tails, and a narrow base, are fast swimmers. Slow swimmers have rounded tails with a wide base.



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DID YOU KNOW?

Sharks can smell 10,000 times better than us!

DID YOU KNOW?

There is a fish that lives in the bottom of a sea cucumber!

DID YOU KNOW?

The largest fish in the ocean is the whale shark

DID YOU KNOW?

You can tell how old a fish is by counting rings on its ear bones!

SURVIVAL SCHOOL

Many fish gather in groups called schools. Schooling makes swimming easier and increases the chances of finding food, avoiding predators and finding a mate.

BED TIME?

Fish may not sleep like we do but most will rest in caves or crevices to save energy and hide from predators.

MARINE MESSAGES

Bony fish use their colour, patterns and behaviour to communicate with each other. More than 500 types of bony fish are also known to make sounds and these sounds can be heard for up to 150m.

NO NECK!

Fish don't need to turn their head like we do! With eyes on either side of their head fish can see what is on their left and right at the same time.

SEA SENSES

Bony fish use their whole body to pick up vibrations in the water made by noise. These vibrations are then passed on to their inner ear. Sharks have an ear hole and are able to focus their hearing in front and above them, which is usually where their food is!

Fish have taste buds on their lips and skin, as well as in their mouths.

A fish's nostrils are called 'nares' and they can't breathe through them like we can.

Fish have a line running along their body called the lateral line. It is full of tiny cells that help it feel movements in the water.