



Name: _____

Fish

Welcome to the amazing underwater world, where fish swim gracefully through the water, showcasing a variety of colors and shapes. In this text, we will dive deep into the fascinating world of fish and learn about their unique characteristics.

Body

Diverse Shapes and Sizes

Fish come in all shapes and sizes. Some are long and slender, like eels, while others are round and flat, like flounders. Each shape is adapted to help them survive in their specific environment.

Scales and Skin

Fish are covered in scales that protect their bodies. These scales can be smooth, rough, or even spiky. Some fish, like catfish, have smooth scales, while others, like pufferfish, have spiky ones. Additionally, fish can have slimy skin that helps them glide through the water.

Breathing Underwater

Unlike us, fish don't breathe air. They have gills, which are like special breathing organs, located on the sides of their bodies. Gills help fish **extract** oxygen from the water, allowing them to breathe underwater.

Fins for Navigation

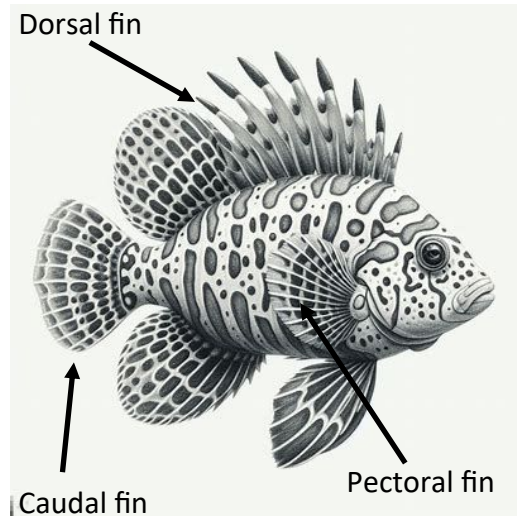
Fish use their fins to move through the water and navigate their surroundings. Different fins have different purposes - the dorsal fin helps with stability, the pectoral fins control steering, and the tail fin, or caudal fin, propels them forward.

Adaptations for Survival

Fish have amazing **adaptations** to survive in their habitats. Some fish, like angelfish, have vibrant colors and patterns to blend in with coral reefs, while others, like the deep-sea anglerfish, use **bioluminescence** to attract prey in the dark ocean depths.

Communication and Schooling

Fish communicate with each other in various ways. Some make sounds, while others use body movements. Many fish also form schools, swimming together in **coordinated** patterns to confuse predators and increase their chances of survival.





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Cold-Blooded Wonders:

Unlike humans and other warm-blooded animals, fish are cold-blooded. This means their body temperature depends on the temperature of the water around them. If the water is warm, the fish's body temperature is warm; if it's cold, their body temperature drops. Being cold-blooded allows fish to conserve energy, as they don't need to eat as much food to maintain a constant body temperature.

In conclusion, fish are incredible creatures with a wide range of characteristics that help them thrive in their underwater homes. From their diverse shapes and sizes to their unique adaptations, fish showcase the beauty and diversity of the animal kingdom beneath the waves. Next time you visit an aquarium or go fishing, take a moment to appreciate the wonders of these amazing aquatic beings.

Glossary

Extract

To take out or remove something from a larger source.

Example: We can extract juice from oranges by squeezing them.

Adaptations

Changes or features that help a living thing survive in its environment.

Example: The long neck of a giraffe is an adaptation that helps it reach leaves high in the trees.

Bioluminescence

The ability of some living organisms to produce light.

Example: Fireflies use bioluminescence to create a twinkling light in the night.

Coordinated

Working together in a planned and organized way.

Example: The dancers' movements were coordinated, with each person moving in sync with the others.



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1. Highlight the headings in the passage.

Use the headings to locate the information to answer the following questions.

2. Explain how fish breathe underwater.

3. Explain the purpose of the 3 different fins the text talks about.

pectoral- _____

dorsal- _____

caudal- _____

4. What does the diagram help you understand about the text? _____

5. Why do fish swim in schools? _____

6. Describe one adaptation a fish has and how it helps it survive. _____

Use the glossary to answer the following questions.

7. What does **extract** mean? _____
