

fish

an animal that
lives completely in
water and gets
oxygen through its
gills

anal fin

a fin located on the underside of a fish near the tail; main purpose is to steady the fish while it is swimming

caudal fin

a fish's tail fin;
main purpose is to
push the fish
forward while
swimming

cold-blooded

keeping a body
temperature that
is almost the same
as the surrounding
air

dorsal fin

a fin located on the top of a fish; main purpose is to keep the fish from rolling, but also helps with sudden stops and turns

egg

an oval or round
object from which
a fish is born

fins

bony spines covered
in skin that extend
from a fish's body;
main purpose is to
help a fish swim

gills

organs in fish that
take oxygen out of
the surrounding
water allowing the
fish to "breathe"

lateral line

a system of sensory organs found in fish that helps them to identify movement or vibration in the water around them

pectoral fins

a pair of fins located on both sides of a fish's body; main purpose is to help with balance and, in some fish, control their depth in the water

pelvic fins

a pair of fins located on the underside of a fish towards the back; main purpose is to help a fish move up or down through the water, turning sharply or stopping quickly

scales

stiff plates that vary in size and shape and grow out of a fish's skin to help provide protection; most fish scales are covered in mucus (or slime)

school

a group of the same type
of fish swimming
together in a
synchronized way; can
also be called a "shoal" if
it is a group of different
kinds of fish

shark

a kind of fish that is distinguished from others by its skeleton made of cartilage and gill slits

vertebrate

an animal with a
backbone; fish are
vertebrates