

## Vocabulary – FISH

<b>anal fin</b>	a fin located on the underside of a fish near the tail; main purpose is to steady the fish while it is swimming
<b>caudal fin</b>	a fish's tail fin; main purpose is to push the fish forward while swimming
<b>cold-blooded</b>	keeping a body temperature that is almost the same as the surrounding air
<b>dorsal fin</b>	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
<b>egg</b>	an oval or round object from which a smaller version of a fish is born
<b>fins</b>	bony spines covered in skin that extend from a fish's body; main purpose is to help a fish swim
<b>fish</b>	an animal that lives completely in water and gets oxygen through its gills

**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