

Fish Facts

Fish are cold-blooded vertebrates that hatch from eggs and live in the water all of their lives. Scientists have found over 20,000 kinds of fish and discover new species all the time.

Instead of breathing air through lungs, like land animals, a fish gets oxygen from the water. It opens its mouth to gulp in water and then pumps the water over its gills. The gills take oxygen from the water and get it to the fish's blood. Then the water passes out of gill openings on both sides of a fish's body. Fish have to continuously open their mouths in order to breathe and stay alive. Many believe that whales, dolphins and porpoises are fish, but in fact they are mammals that breathe through lungs, so they are not fish.

A fish's body is usually covered with overlapping slimy scales and mucus that serve as protection. The body of most types of fish are shaped for speed because they have to depend on their speed to capture food or to escape from predators. All fish have fins for moving. Fins keep fish from rolling over and help them slow down or change directions while swimming.

Fish Facts (continued)

Fish protect themselves in different ways depending upon their species. Some fish, like the flounder, camouflage themselves by changing color to match the ocean floor when predators are near. Others, such as the butterfly fish, have markings that make them naturally blend in with their surroundings. A porcupine fish will actually swallow water when it is frightened and puff up like a spiny ball. Clown fish are able to live among stinging sea anemones which protect them predators that aren't immune to the sea anemone's sting.

Fish have eyes, but there are no eyelids. They actually can't see very far at all. Fish also have some hearing, but the organ is buried in their skull, so they can't hear well either. They are, however, very sensitive to disturbances in the water. Fish have a lateral line along their sides which contain a row of sense organs. These organs can detect movements made by other creatures.

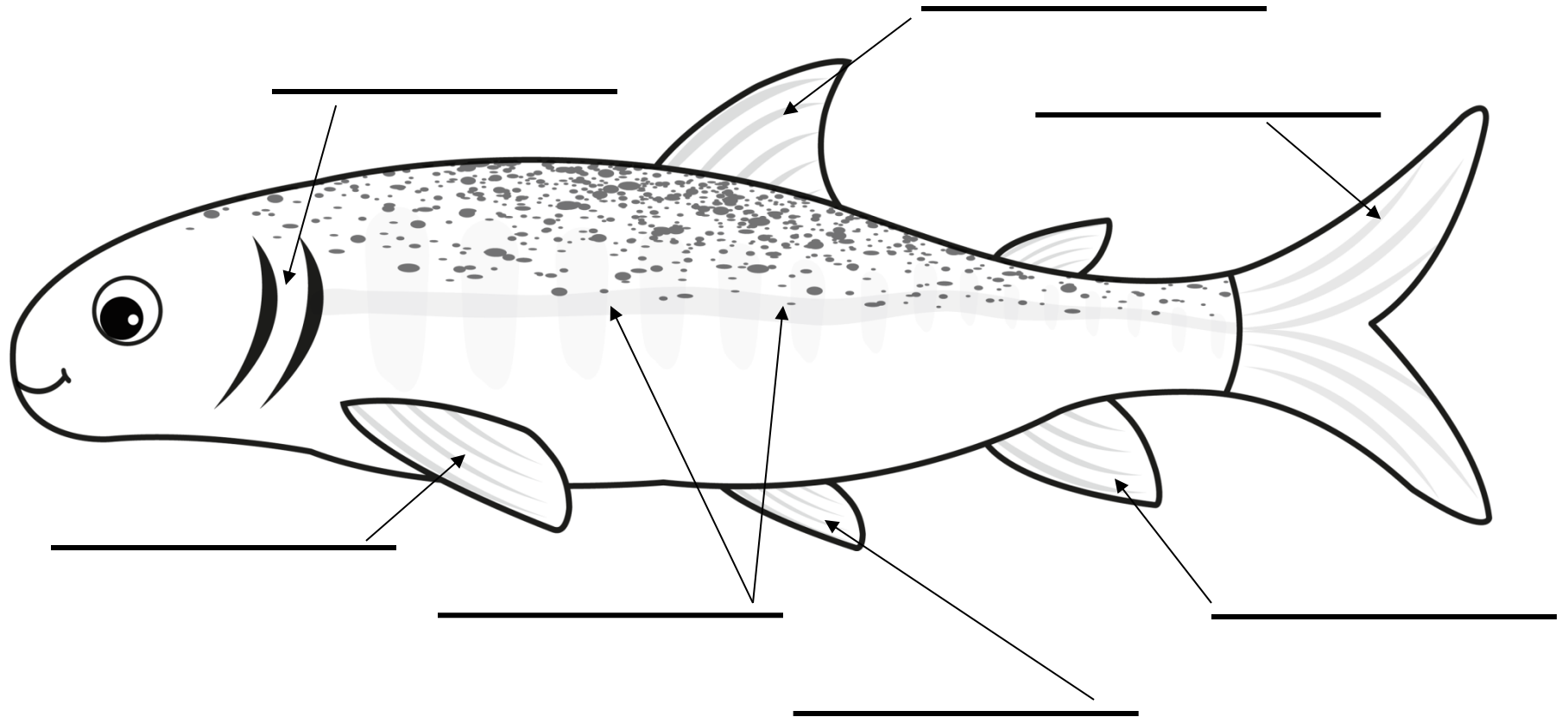
Can You Spot a Fish?

- All fish live in water.
- All fish are vertebrates.
- All fish breathe through gills.
 - All fish are cold-blooded.
- Most fish have no eyelids.
 - Most fish have fins.
 - Most fish have scales.
 - Most fish lay eggs.

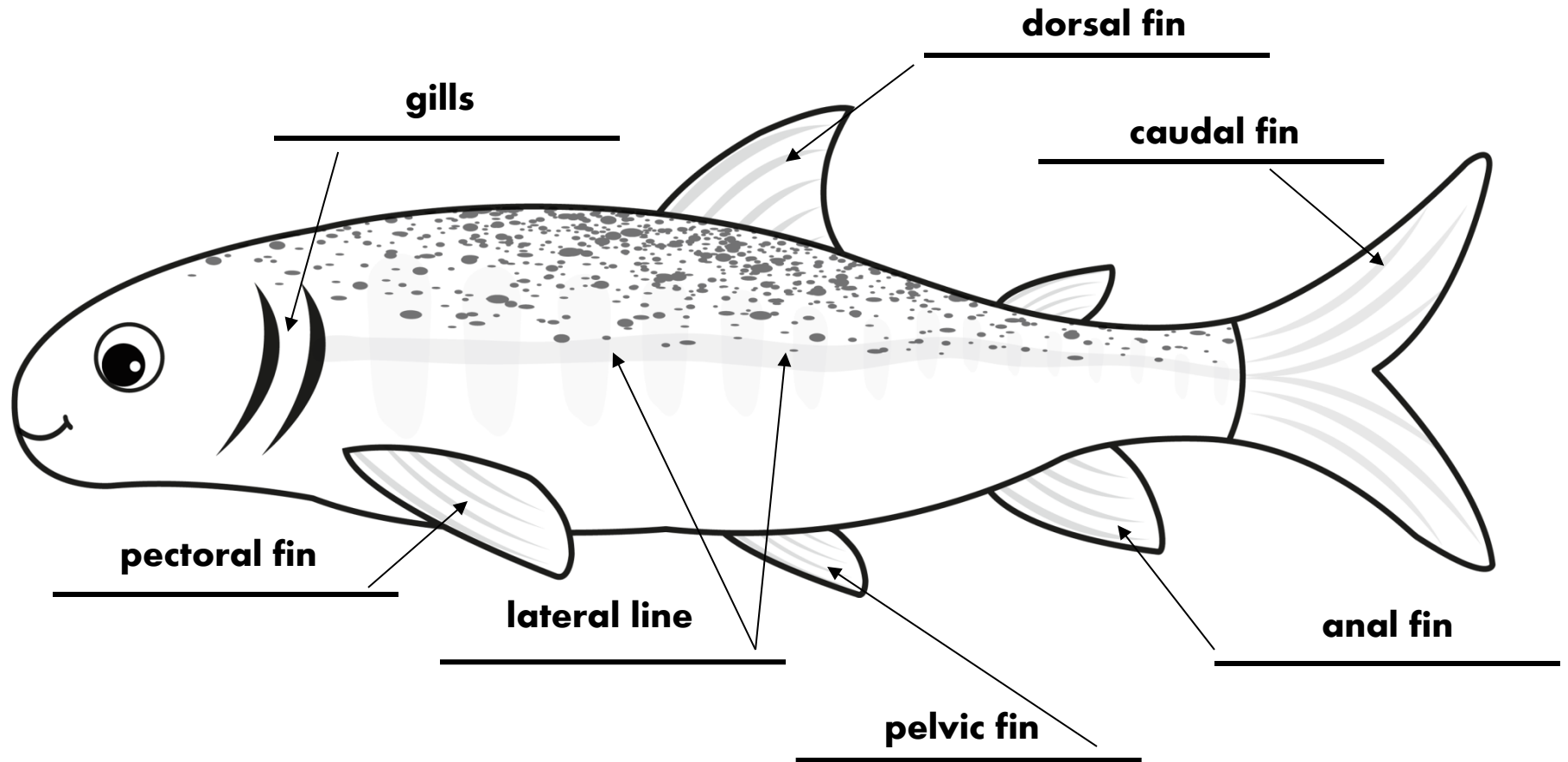
Observational Drawing

My Observation in Words

Parts of a Salmon



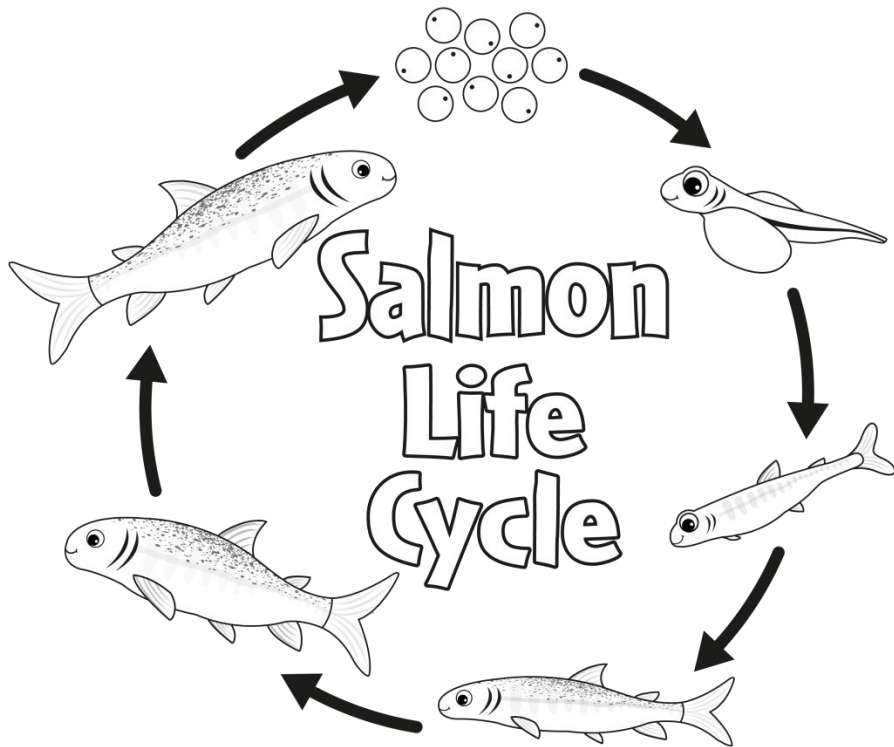
Parts of a Salmon



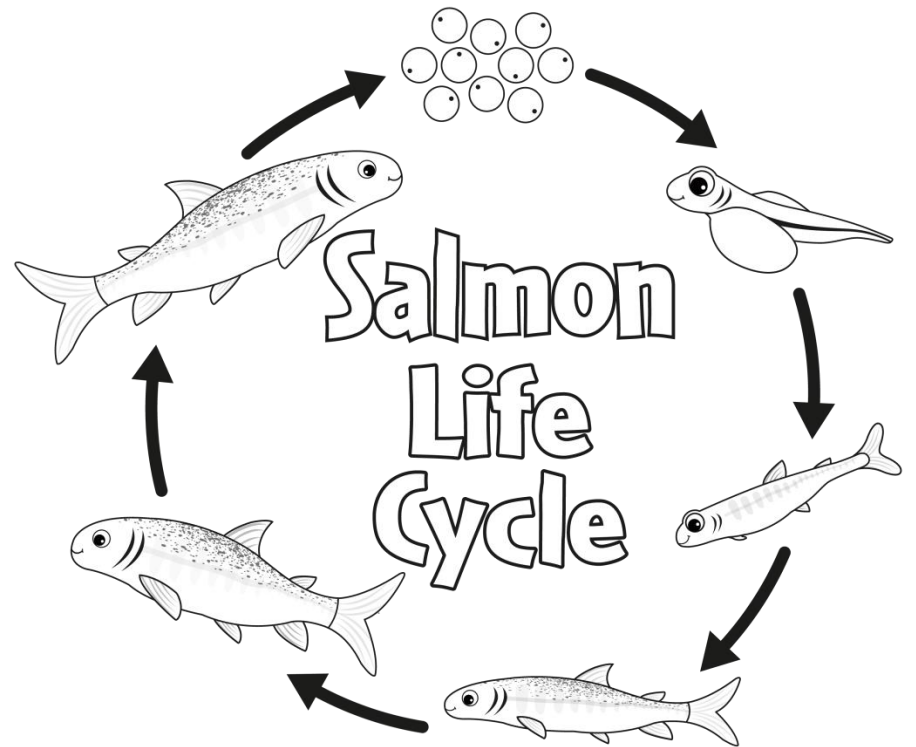
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	Fish eat...
	Fish need...
	Something interesting I learned...

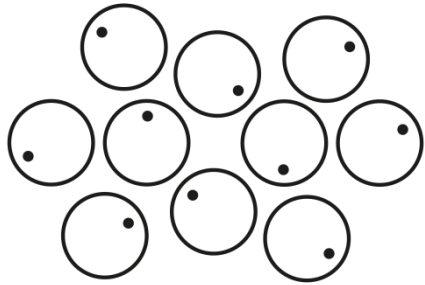
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Salmon



Salmon

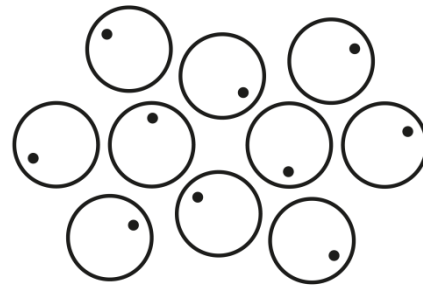




eggs



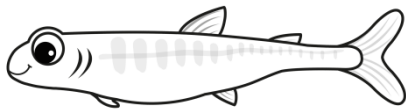
alevin



eggs



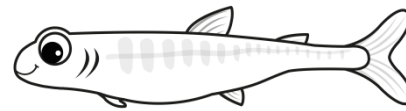
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fry



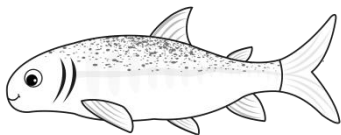
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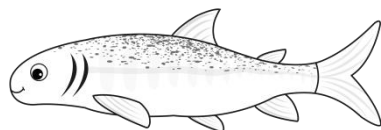
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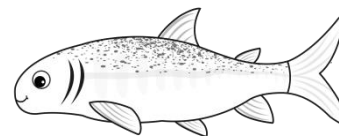
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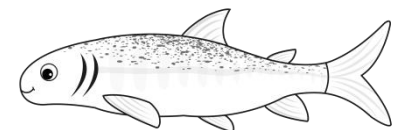
smolt



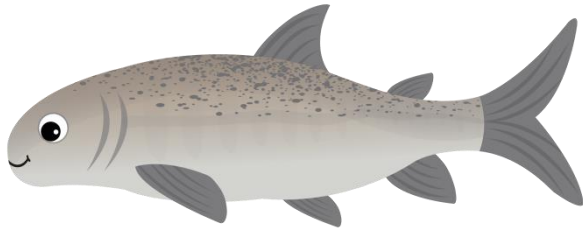
adult



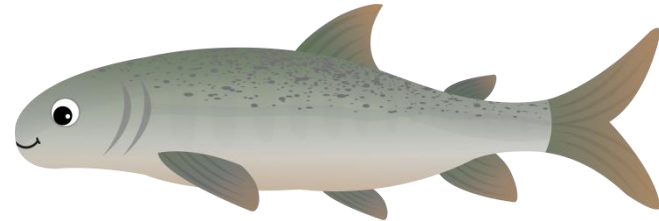
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adult

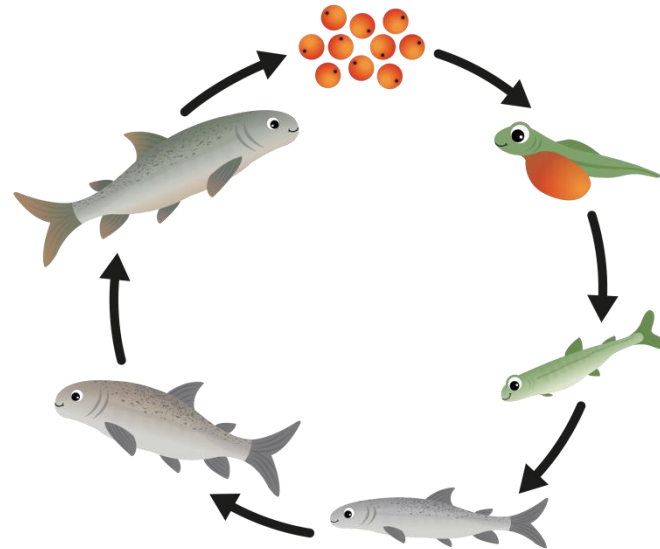


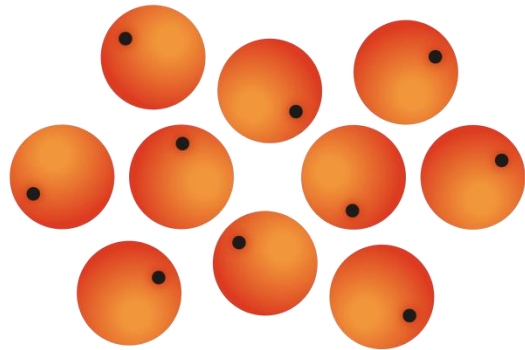
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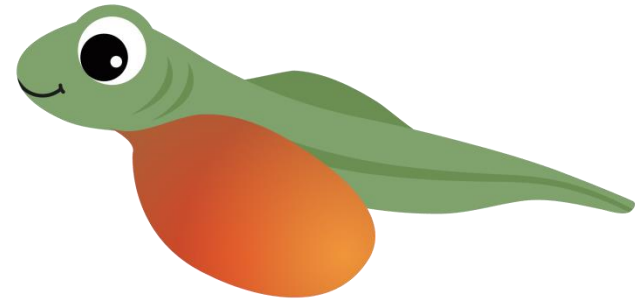
adult

Salmon Life Cycle

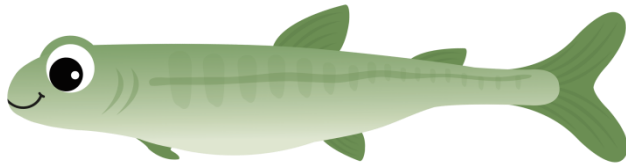




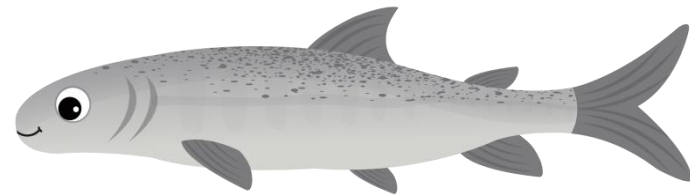
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