

Vocabulary – Fish

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 smaller version of 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
fish	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