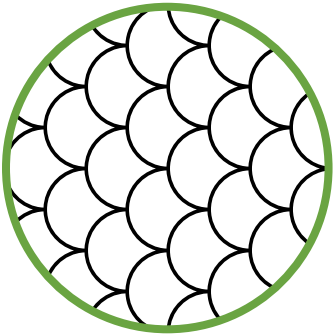


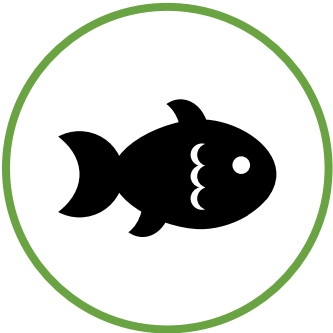
What Is a Fish?

Fish are a group of animals. Fish come in all shapes and sizes, from minnows to sharks. All fish are alike in some ways. What do all fish have in common?



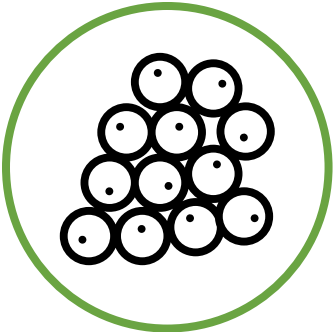
Scales

All fish have scales covering their bodies. Sometimes the scales can be hard to see, like the tiny ones on a shark. Sometimes they are visible, like the large scales of goldfish. Scales protect fish from predators and have a smooth texture that helps fish swim fast underwater.



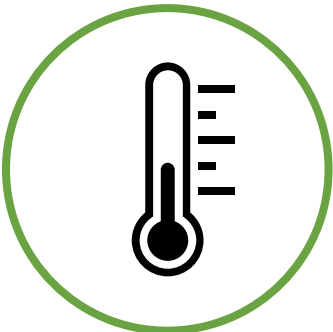
Gills

Fish breathe through their gills. When a fish opens its mouth, the water goes through the gills. The blood in the gills picks up the oxygen in the water and delivers it to the rest of the fish's body.



Eggs

Most fish lay eggs in water. Many fish lay their eggs on plants underwater or hide them. This keeps the eggs safe from predators or other bigger fish that can eat them. Some fish, like guppies, give birth to live babies instead!



Cold-blooded

Fish are cold-blooded, unlike humans and other mammals, which are warm-blooded. Their body temperature changes with the environment, so they need to move to hotter or cooler water to maintain themselves at the right level of warmth. Warm-blooded animals, like mammals and birds, can keep their body the same temperature all the time.

What Is a Fish?

Each sentence is missing a word. Match each sentence to the correct word.

Sentence	Word
1. All fish have _____ covering their bodies.	A. gills
2. Some fish give _____ to live young while others lay eggs.	B. eggs
3. Fish use _____ to get oxygen from the water.	C. scales
4. Most baby fish grow inside of _____.	D. temperature
5. Fish body _____ changes when it is hot or cold outside.	E. birth



Answers: 1.: C scales; 2.: E. birth; 3.: A. gills; 4.: B. eggs; 5.: D. temperature.