

FISH



Fish:

- have a backbone
- live in water
- are cold-blooded
- use gills to take oxygen from the water
- have scales

A SCHOOL OF FISH

Fish come in all shapes, sizes, and colors. Fish live anywhere you find water including oceans, seas, rivers, and lakes. Fish have special organs called gills that allow them to breathe underwater. When a fish takes in a mouthful of water, the gills filter the oxygen from it.

All fish:

- have a backbone
- live in water
- are cold-blooded
- use gills to take in oxygen from the water
- have scales

All fish have scales. Scales are hard bony plates that cover a fish's body and protect it.

Fish move gracefully through the water. They use their powerful tails to push them forward in the water and their fins to steer. Many fish live and swim in large groups called schools. Traveling in a school helps to protect them from predators.

Do you know what fish eat? Believe it or not, fish eat other fish. Some eat plankton or tiny fish. Bigger fish eat the smaller fish and on and on the cycle of life continues.

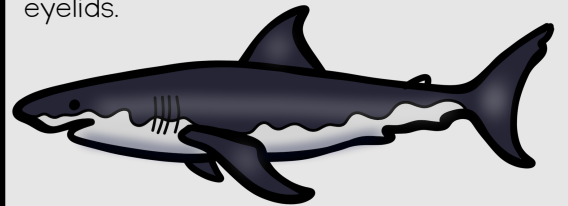
Many fish use camouflage to blend into their environment so well that it's hard for predators to see them. Fish lay hundreds of eggs at a time. Most of the eggs will be eaten by other fish. Some will hatch into larvae, but a few will grow and develop into adults.

There are thousands of kinds of fish that make up three main groups:

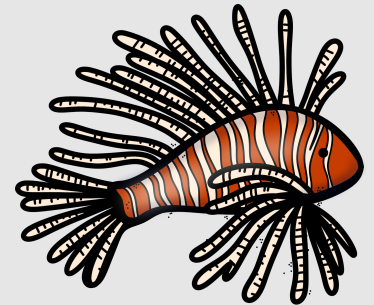
1. Bony fish have a hard skeleton inside of them.
2. Cartilaginous fish have a skeleton made of a flexible material called cartilage. This group includes sharks and stingrays.
3. Jawless fish is made up of hagfish and lampreys.

EXAMPLES:

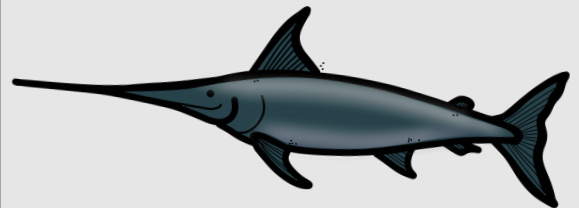
Most fish lay eggs, but the great white shark gives birth to live babies called pups. Sharks are the only fish that have eyelids.



A lionfish has a wild mane of venomous spines. Many people have them as pets.



A swordfish uses its sword-like bill for defense and to catch its prey. It can swim as fast as 50 miles per hour!



The slowest fish in the sea is a seahorse. These creatures like to swim in pairs with their tails linked together. It's the only fish that swim upright.



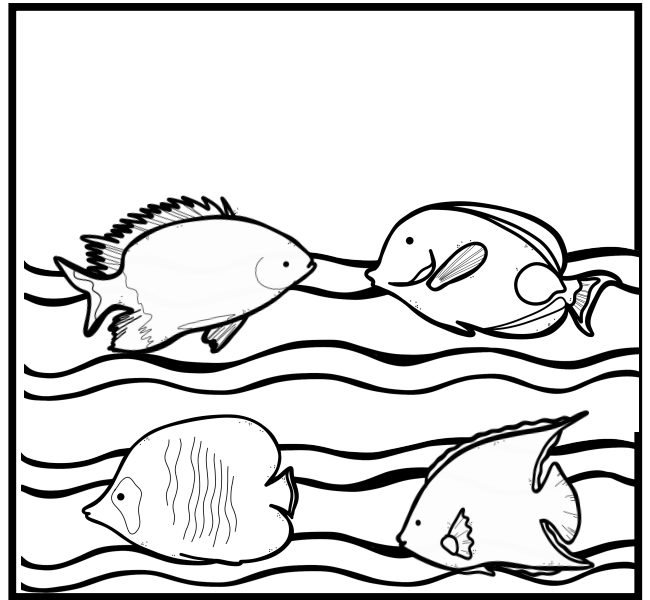
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A SCHOOL OF FISH

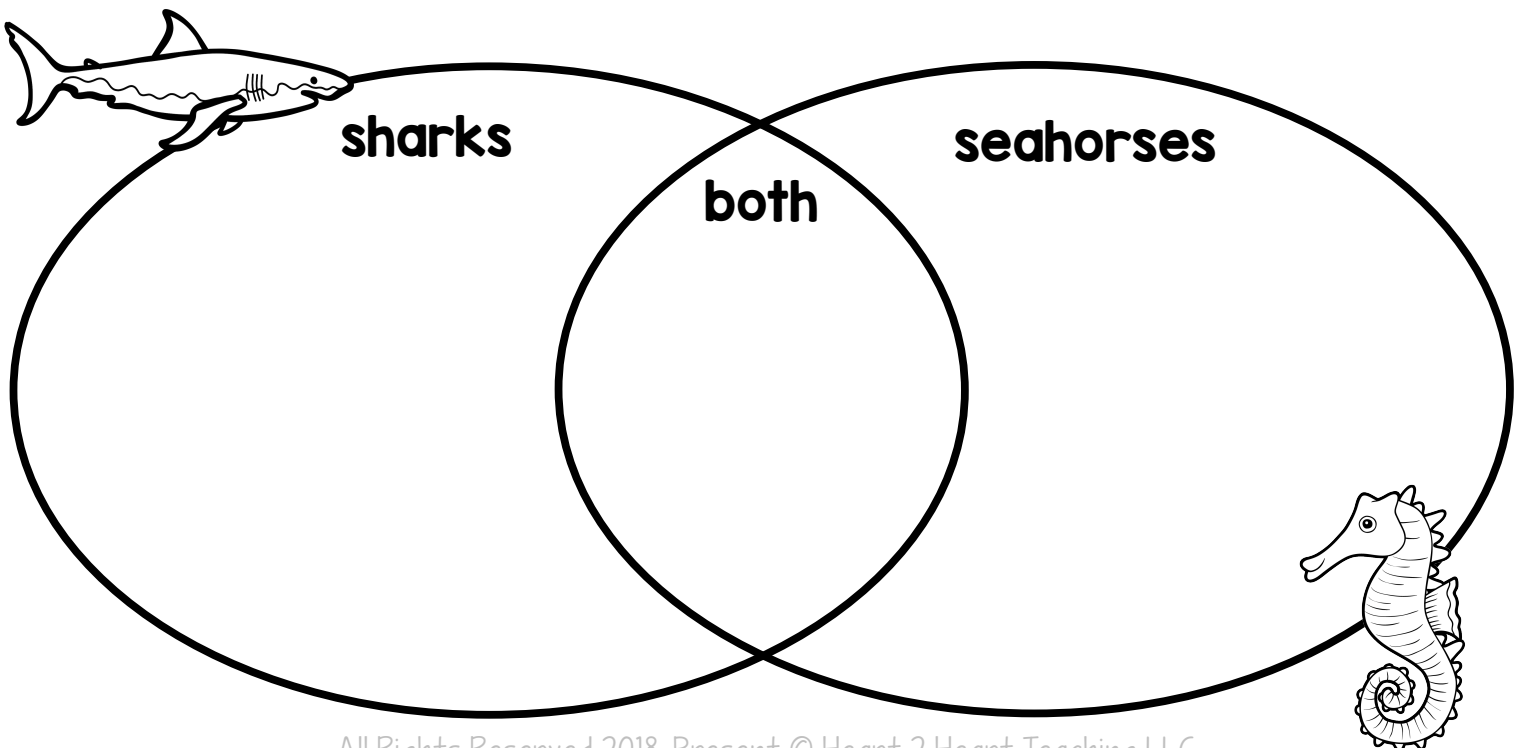
Why do most fish travel in large groups?

Name the five characteristics of all fish:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Compare and contrast sharks to seahorses using the Venn diagram.



FISH

Circle all the fish below:

stingray

lionfish

whale

goldfish

salmon

dolphin

horse

shark

seahorse

trout

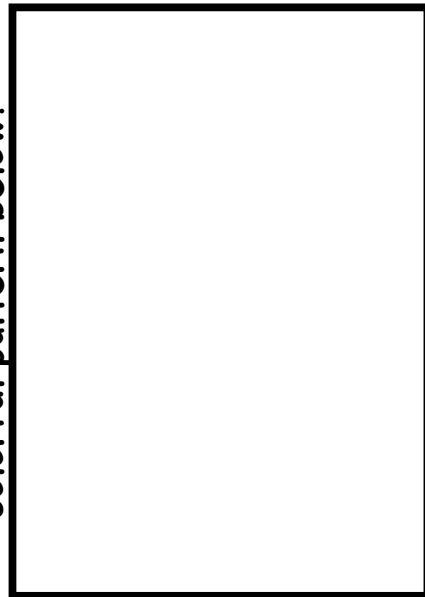
swordfish

frog

Where do fish live?

Name of your favorite fish:

Draw a picture of a fish with a
colorful pattern below.



Tell one interesting fact
you learned about them:

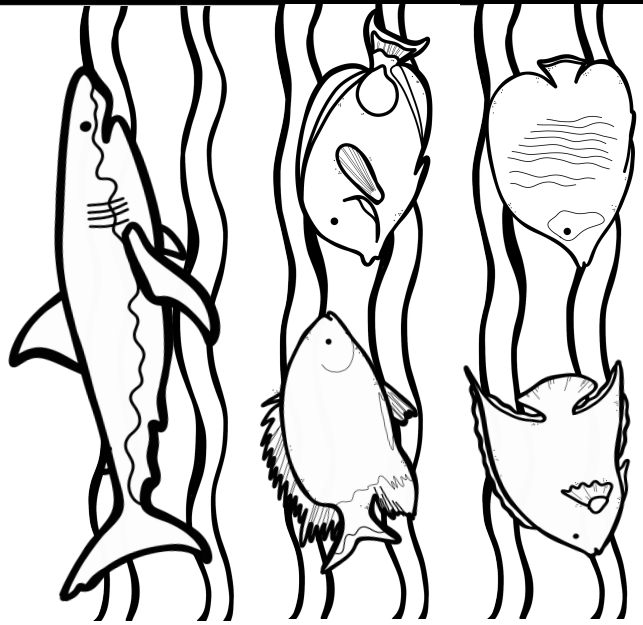
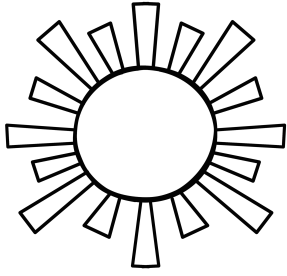


Name five
characteristics of
all fish:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Fish are cold-blooded.
Explain how they stay warm.

FISH



Decide if each statement below is true or false:

1. Most fish travel in large groups called herds.

2. Fish have gills to take in oxygen from the water.

3. Most fish lay hundreds of eggs at a time.

4. Fish have hair on their body.

5. Many fish use camouflage to blend into their environment.

6. Some fish are made of a flexible material called cartilage.

Compare and contrast sharks to dolphins. How are they alike and different?

