

How Do Fish.....?



Swim: Fish swim by flexing their body and tail back and forth in the water. This action then propels them forward in the water with great force which allows the fish to "jump" obstacles in its' path.

Breathe: Fish require a constant supply of oxygen from the water. They get this by filtering water through their gills. Many fish have four pairs of gills, while sharks have seven.



See: Fish eyes are similar to our eyes, however, they see much better close up.

Eat: Fish eat by taking food and nutrients in through their mouths, they then filter the water out through their gills and are left with micro-organisms or other foods.

Reproduce: Reproduction is different for each species, but, generally follows one of three basic methods. In most cases, the female drops eggs in the water, which are immediately fertilized by sperm from the male(salmon). Fertilization of the eggs can also occur within a female's body (horn-shark) before eggs are released. In the third example, a female dog fish retains the eggs within her body, they are then fertilized by the male and finally the young are born alive. Most sharks and guppies give birth this way.



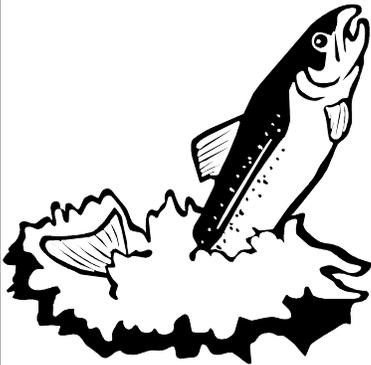
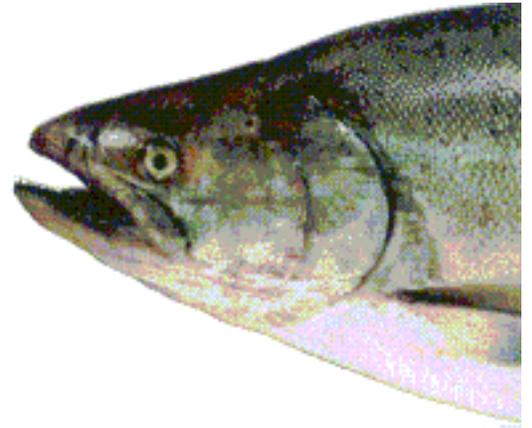
Taste: Fish have taste buds, just like you do. Fish taste buds have the ability to tell the difference between sweet, sour, salty and bitter. Taste buds are different on different parts of a fish's body. They have taste buds inside their mouths, on their tongue and on the outside of their bodies.



Smell: a fish's nose is made up of two openings on the head. The sense of smell is very important to a fish because it helps them find their food and can warn of danger.

What does that do...?

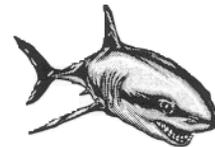
Gills: Like you, fish need several basics to survive: food, water and oxygen. Its pretty obvious where fish get food and water, but, where does the oxygen come from? While some fish in the tropics do gulp air, most get oxygen from the water that a fish takes into its mouth. The water is filtered through the gills and extracts the oxygen. The gills then draw the air into the body like your lungs.



Fins and Tails: What do the fins and tail do for a fish? Much like an airplanes wings and rudder, the fins and tail help the fish move up, down or turn in the water. The tail is very strong and does most of the pushing, while the fins help the fish to change direction. The tail is so powerful that a fish can actually "jump" out of the water to go over obstacles.

Colours: Fish colours are very important, enabling a fish to hide in streams and lakes. Fish like trout tend to be brown and green, like mud or reeds. Salmon tend to be silver in the ocean, like glittering sunlight, and change to reds when spawning, due to the change in their bodies.

Shape: the easiest way to identify a fish is by shape. A shark shape is very different from eels, who in turn are very different from whales or salmon. A fish's shape is often dictated by where it lives, streamlined fish often need to move quickly or live in fast moving water, while others may need to be flat (flounders) to hide.



Sink or Swim: How does a fish stay afloat? Like a submarine, fish have containers that they fill with air called bladders. The amount of air in the bladder lets the fish rise to the surface or sink to the bottom.

