

Teacher Resource Sheet: Is it really a fish? (Year 3)

Some marine animals are called fish but aren't actually fish. Fill in the table using books and websites to determine which fish are the real deal.

	Vertebrate? (Yes or No)	Describe its body covering	What does it use to move?	Type of animal	Draw a picture of this creature
Boxfish	Yes	Large, thick bony plates	Fins	Fish	
Rock lobster	No	Exoskeleton/hard shell	Jointed legs and tail	Crustacean	
Cuttlefish	No	Soft (shell is internal)	Swim by jet propulsion, forcing/ expelling water through a siphon	Mollusc	
Sea jelly (Jellyfish)	No	Soft-jelly like body with stinging tentacles	Drift in the ocean currents	Cnidarian	
Pipefish	Yes	Bony plates	Fins	Fish	
Sawfish	Yes	Scales	Fins	Fish	
Shellfish	No	Shell	Muscular foot	Mollusc	
Sea star (Starfish)	No	Spiny skin	Water-filled tube feet	Echinoderm	
Stonefish	Yes	Scales	Fins	Fish	

The characteristics of fish (Fill in the blanks)

All fish are vertebrates, which means they have a *backbone*.

A fish breathes with its *gills*.

A fish moves using its *fins*.

Most fish are covered with *scales*.