

Lesson: External fish anatomy

Phase of learning

Years 3 - 4, Years 5 - 6

WA Curriculum

K-10 Science

Region

North Coast, Gascoyne Coast, West Coast, South Coast, Indian Ocean Territories

Summary

Students will label the external features of a bony fish.

Outcomes

- Students will identify the characteristics of bony fish.
- Students will describe adaptations of bony fish for life in the aquatic environment.
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Duration

30-45 minutes

Preparation

This lesson uses the fish print created in the Lesson: [Gyotaku](#). Alternatively, if students have not completed the Lesson: [Gyotaku](#) or have used their fish print for another activity, a range of images of fish are available.

This lesson requires students to have access to non-fiction books on fish and/or the internet.

Related Resource:

Student worksheet: [External fish anatomy – West Australian dhufish](#)

Student worksheet: [External fish anatomy – Pink snapper](#)

Student worksheet: [External fish anatomy – Barramundi](#)

Student worksheet: [External fish anatomy – Wahoo](#)

Student worksheet: [External fish anatomy – King George whiting](#)

Western Australian curriculum

LEARNING AREA	STRAND	SUB-STRAND	CODES
Science	Science Understanding	Biological sciences	ACSSU043 , ACSSU044

Steps

Provide students with their Gyotaku print, or with a copy of Student Worksheet: [External Fish Anatomy](#) (for your chosen species).

Engage students in a discussion about, or provide students with books and/or access to the internet to find out about, the external features of a fish.

Allow time for students to label the following on their diagram:

Common name, e.g. Australian herring.

Scientific name, e.g. *Arripis georgianus*

External features of the fish:

Dorsal fin

Pectoral fin

Lateral line

Eye

Caudal fin

Mouth

Gill cover

Ventral (Pelvic) fin

Anal fin

Nostrils

Related Resource

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Recreational fishing identification guide, http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Documents/occasional_publications/fop103.pdf

Additional Resources

Allen, G., 2004, Marine fishes of tropical Australia and south-east Asia, 3rd edn, Western Australian Museum, Perth.

Department of Fisheries, Western Australian recreational fishing rules,
http://rules.fish.wa.gov.au/?utm_source=dof-website&utm_medium=website-promo&utm_campaign=recreational-rules

Hutchins, B. & Thompson, M., 2001, The marine and estuarine fishes of south-western Australia, Western Australia Museum, Perth.

Prokop, F., 2006. Australian Fish Guide. Australian Fishing Network. Victoria, Australia.

Related resources

[Fact Sheet: Fish Anatomy](#)

[Poster: Bony Fish - External Anatomy \(simple\)](#)

[Student Worksheet: External Fish Anatomy - Pink snapper](#)

[Student Worksheet: External fish anatomy - Wahoo](#)

[Student Worksheet: External fish anatomy - West Australian dhufish](#)

[Student Worksheet: External Fish Anatomy - King George whiting](#)

[Student Worksheet: External fish anatomy - Barramundi](#)

Keywords

fish anatomy, features, external features, bony fish