

# 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	<a href="#">ACSSU043</a> , <a href="#">ACSSU044</a>

## 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](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, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](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