

# Lesson: What's the difference? (Year 3)

## Phase of learning

Years 3 - 4

## WA Curriculum

K-10 English, K-10 Science

## Region

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

## Summary

Students will compare and contrast features between fish and another group of (vertebrate) animals adapted for life underwater e.g. marine mammals or reptiles.

## Outcomes

- Students will identify characteristics of bony fish.
- Students will identify characteristics of another group of marine vertebrate animals.
- Students will use graphic organisers to display their findings.

## Duration

30 - 45 minutes

## Preparation

Background information about fish anatomy can be found in the Fact Sheet: [Fish Anatomy](#).

Student Worksheet: [What's the difference? \(Year 3\)](#)

This lesson requires students to have access to non-fiction books on (marine) mammals or reptiles and/or the internet.

This lesson assumes students have prior knowledge of features of fish. The Lesson: [What's a Fish? \(Year 3\)](#) may precede this one if there is no prior knowledge.

## Western Australian curriculum

LEARNING AREA	STRAND	SUB-STRAND	CODES
Science	Science Understanding	Biological sciences	<a href="#">ACSSU044</a>
Science	Science Inquiry Skills	Communicating	<a href="#">AC SIS060</a>

English	Language	Text structure and organisation	<a href="#">ACELA1478</a>
English	Language	Expressing and developing ideas	<a href="#">ACELA1484</a>
English	Literacy	Interacting with others	<a href="#">ACELY1676</a>

## Steps

1. Recall information from lesson/s about what features are characteristic of fish.
2. Discuss the features of another group of (vertebrate) animals suited to life underwater – i.e. choose either marine mammals or marine reptiles. What features do you think would be the same or similar? What would be different?
3. Allow students to work in pairs or small groups with non-fiction books and/or the internet to discover some characteristics of your chosen group of animals.
4. Following their research time, ask each pair (group) to share a characteristic they discovered. Brainstorm student responses.
5. Explain to students (if necessary) how to distribute information in a Venn Diagram. Distribute Student Worksheet: [What's the difference? \(Year 3\)](#) and allow time for students to compare similarities and differences between a fish and your chosen group of animals.
6. Discuss student answers.

## Additional resources

Parish, S. 2008 Amazing Facts about Australian Marine Fishes. Steve Parish Publishing, Queensland.

SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment, Bony Fishes,  
<https://seaworld.org/en/animal-info/animal-infobooks/bony-fish>

SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment, Bottlenose Dolphins,  
<https://seaworld.org/en/animal-info/animal-infobooks/bottlenose-dolphins>

SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment, Sea Turtles,  
<https://seaworld.org/en/animal-info/animal-infobooks/sea-turtles>

## Keywords

fish anatomy, features, classification