

Lesson: What's a Fish? (Year 1)

Phase of learning

Years 1 - 2

WA Curriculum

K-10 English, K-10 Science

Summary

Students will investigate the external characteristics of fish.

Outcomes

- Students will investigate the external features (characteristics) of fish.
- Students will use interaction skills and engage in discussions.
- Students will learn some scientific vocabulary.
- Students will use informative texts to find information.

Duration

30 - 45 minutes

Preparation

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

Each student will require a copy of Student Worksheet: [What's a Fish? \(1\)](#)

You will require a simple informative book about finfish. Some suggested texts may be found in the Recommended Resources section.

You will require a stack of Post-it notes if you choose to complete the Post-it note fish activity at the end of this lesson.

Western Australian curriculum

LEARNING AREA	STRAND	SUB-STRAND	CODES
Science	Science understanding	Biological sciences	ACSSU017
English	Language	Expressing and developing ideas	ACELA1453 , ACELA1454

English

	Language	Text structure and organisation	ACELA1447
English	Literacy	Interacting with others	ACELY1788 , ACELY1656

Steps

1. Share one of the books from the Recommended Resources (below) with your class.
2. Engage students in a discussion about what features made a fish a fish. Collate ideas on a (white/black/smart) board.
3. Distribute [STUDENT WORKSHEET – What’s a Fish \(1\)](#). Students will fill in their worksheet with the features that they determined make a fish.
4. (optional) Post-it note fish – As an alternative to completing [STUDENT WORKSHEET – What’s a Fish \(1\)](#), hand out Post-it notes and ask students to write one feature about fish on their note. Collate all of the notes on a sheet of card into the shape of a fish (the Post-it notes should be placed such that they all open the same way – these represent the fishes scales). You can draw a fish outline around the Post-it notes, giving the fish its fishy features, and a habitat.

Recommended Resources

Howell, I. 2015 Fact Cat: Fish, Wayland, Great Britain.

Johnson, R. 2017 First Facts: Fish, Steve Parish Publishing, Queensland.

Pfeffer, W. 2015 What’s it like to be a Fish? HarperCollins Publishers, New York.

Additional resources

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

Poster: [Bony fish – external anatomy](#)

SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment, Bony Fishes,

<https://seaworld.org/en/animal-info/animal-infobooks/bony-fish>

Related resources

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

[Student Worksheet: What's a fish? \(1\)](#)

[Fact Sheet: Fish Anatomy](#)

Keywords

fish anatomy, features, characters, living things