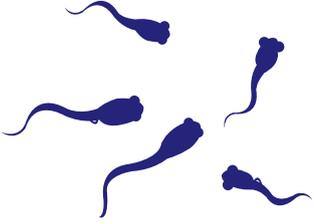


What is a fish?



Fish have been around for about 500 million years. They were the first animals to have backbones (**vertebrates**). In the beginning, they looked like tadpoles



Rudd

Look in a dictionary or on the web for an explanation of the word fish. Write your findings here.

Fish scales are coloured so that the fish will blend in with its surroundings. This is called **camouflage**.

THINK!
How does camouflage help to protect fish?



fish



mammal



amphibians



birds



reptiles

A **vertebrate** is an animal with a backbone. Which group of vertebrates is being described in these sentences?

- They live in water and on land _____
- They do not lay eggs _____
- They breathe through gills _____
- They lay their eggs on land _____
- They are the only group with feathers _____

Activity Card



TRY THIS!

Put your hands on each side of your head and pretend they are gills.

Open your mouth - **close** your gills.

Close your mouth - **open** your gills.



How can you tell the age of a tree?



Birds have feathers and fish have scales.



Did you know?

You can tell the **AGE** of a **scaly** fish by counting the number of rings on its scales



Sometimes the rings on scales are wide and sometimes they are narrow, depending on whether the fish has had a good supply of food.

Match the correct ones

- 1 - wide rings
- 2 - narrow rings

A plentiful supply of food

Food supply scarce

Fish in the food chain



Fresh water fish live in rivers and lakes, while saltwater fish live in the seas and oceans. Some fish such as the salmon and eels can live in both freshwater and saltwater.

What is the scientific name for the fish living in both fresh and saltwater?



Saltwater food chain



Freshwater food chain

Did you know?

Freshwater species are the most **threatened species** on the planet. They are dying out 5 times faster than animals that live on land!

Fish may occupy many levels in the food chain throughout their lives.

For example, fish eggs and fry are an important food for other fish, birds and insects.

Fish such as salmon are **predators**. They live on freshwater insects and crustaceans in the river and fish and crustaceans such as shrimp in the sea.

Salmon also serve as food for other animals such as heron, otter, seals, fish and humans



Activity Card



Sort out these words and put them in the correct sentences.

btrvreseeat _____

llgis _____

cslesa _____

ecgaalmfou _____

rewrfsehta _____

rodpetrsa _____

Many animals use _____ to hide from _____

Fish breathe through their _____

An animal with a backbone is called a _____

Salmon can survive in both salt water and _____