

# External Anatomy Features

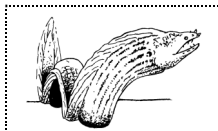
The way a fish looks tells us a lot about how it lives. Body shape, mouth location and size, tail shape and colour are good indicators of a fish's lifestyle.

## Body Shape

- Cut out the body shape descriptions and the fish pictures.
- Match each fish with its body shape description.
- Glue them next to each other in your book.

### Fusiform

A streamlined fish, capable of swimming very fast.



Moray Eel

### Laterally Compressed 1

Flattened from side to side, swims slowly but is very manoeuvrable, many are found near coral reefs.



Kahawai

### Laterally Compressed 2

Flattened from side to side, lies on its side on the bottom.



Angelfish

### Depressed

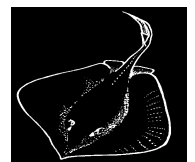
Flattened from top to bottom, lives on the bottom.



Flounder

### Eel-like

Has a snake like body, lives in holes or among rocks.



Stingray

## Caudal Fin

The caudal fin of a fish is commonly referred to as its tail. The shape of a fish's tail can be an indicator of how fast a fish usually swims. There are three main tail shapes.



Crescent shaped: Fish with crescent-shaped tails are very fast swimmers who are constantly on the move.

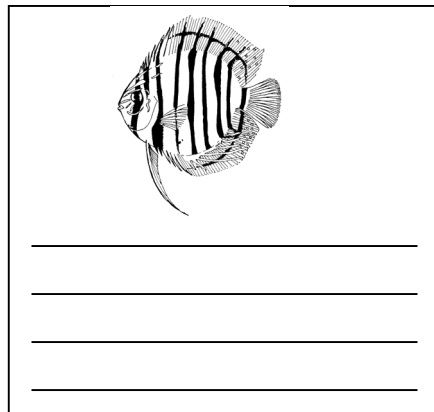
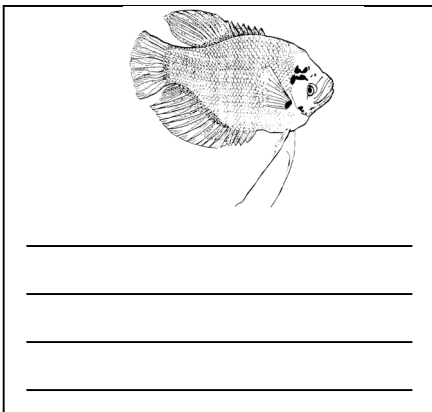
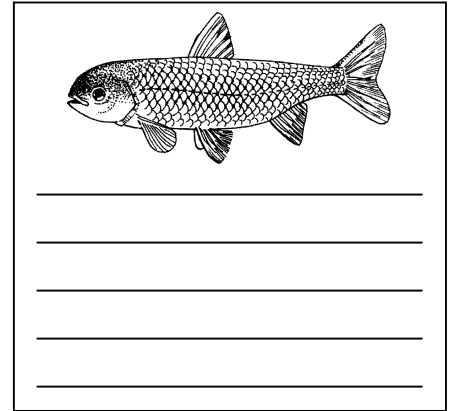
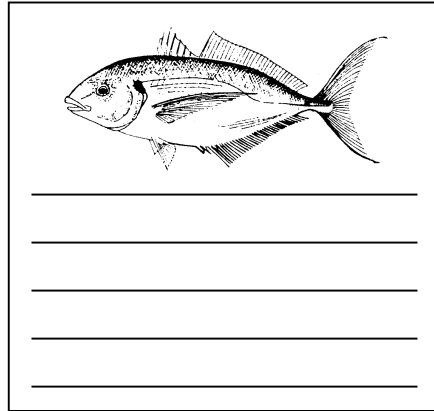
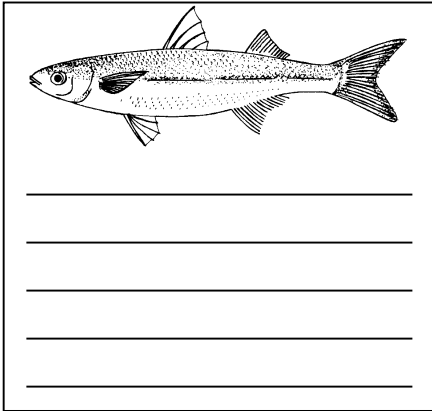


Forked: Fish with forked tails are also fast swimmers although they may not swim fast all the time. The deeper the fork the faster a fish can swim.



Rounded: Fish with a rounded or flattened tail are mostly slow moving although they are capable of short, accurate bursts of speed.

- Look at the fish in the boxes below. Using the information above, decide how fast you think the fish will swim.
- Write a statement in the boxes below about each fish's swimming speed.
- Glue the boxes into your book.



## Mouths

The location and size of a fish's mouth can be a good indicator of the food a fish eats and where it lives.

Fish with large mouths generally eat large food items like another fish. Fish with small mouths eat small food items like small crustaceans and molluscs. Fish with tiny mouths eat tiny things like zooplankton.

Fish with a **terminal mouth** located at the end of the head may chase and capture things or pick at things.

Fish with an **up-pointing** mouth with the opening towards the top of the head and a strong lower jaw usually feed near the surface or above themselves.

Fish with a **sub-terminal** mouth with the opening on the underside of the head usually feed on the bottom.

Some fish have **specialised** mouths, like the seahorse, which has a tiny mouth at the end of a straw-like snout that is used to 'slurp' zooplankton.

- Using the information above look at the following pictures of fish and make assumptions about what sort of food the fish may eat, how it captures it's food and where the fish might live.
- Discuss and justify your ideas with your group.

- Cut out the fish and glue them into your book, write your ideas about what the fish eats, how it captures it's food and where it lives, next to each picture.

