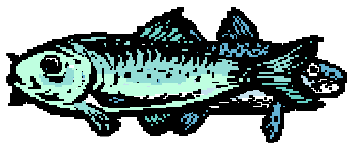
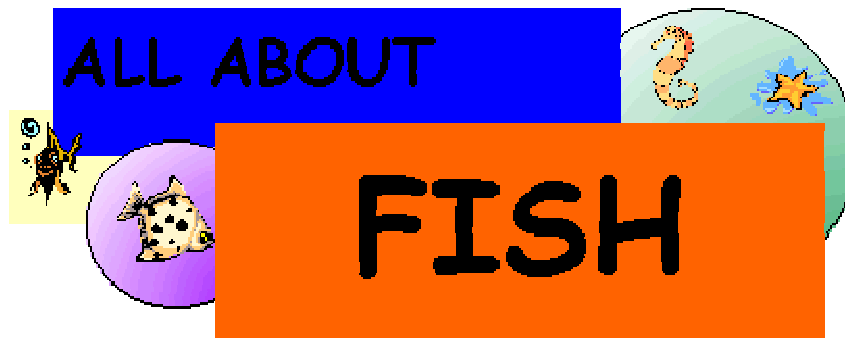


# ALL ABOUT FISH



The 25,000 known species of fish are divided into three main groups. They are the jawless, the cartilaginous (KAR-ti-LAJ-i-nus) and the bony fish. Jawless fish are the last survivors of the world's first vertebrate (VUR-ta-bret) animals, which means "back-boned". They lack both scales and jaws. Dating from over 5000 million years ago, only the hagfish and lampreys remain.

Cartilaginous fish developed about 100 million years later, ancestors of today's sharks. The skeleton of these fish is made of cartilage (KART-laj), which is not as hard as bone. These fish have jaws, as well as teeth which are usually hard and sharp. Their bodies are covered with hard scales.

Bony fish—fish with bony skeletons—appeared at the same time as cartilaginous fish. They are the largest group, with about 20,000 species. These fish have an organ called a swim bladder which gives the animal buoyancy (BOY-en-see), the ability to float.

All fish live in water and breathe with gills. Fish are cold-blooded, which means their internal body temperature changes as the surrounding temperature changes.

## Fast Fish Facts:

-  All fish have a backbone.
-  All fish are cold-blooded.
-  There are three classes of fish: jawless, cartilaginous, and bony..
-  Fish have been around for 500 million years.
-  There are about 25,000 different species of fish alive today.
-  There are about 20,000 different species of bony fish alive today.

## Fish Diversity

Fish are divided up into groups of related animals, called *Classes*. Below you'll find the name of these classes and some examples.

Photo	Class	Examples
Find the correct photo to go with this category	Cephalaspidomorphi (sef-ah-LAS-pe-do-MORF-e)	lampreys
Find the correct photo to go with this category	Myxini (mik-SY-ny)	hagfishes
Find the correct photo to go with this category	Chondrichthyes (kon-DRIK-thi-es)	sharks, skates, rays, ratfishes
Find the correct photo to go with this category	Osteichthyes(OS-te-IK-the-es) Arctic Charr	bony fish, including lungfishes, lobe-finned fishes, and ray-finned fishes