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# Fish

The rivers, streams, seas and oceans around us are full of fish in all sorts of different shapes, sizes and colours. Unlike us, fish are cold-blooded creatures and live and breathe in water. They have bones but instead of legs have fins, which they use to swim in water.



## Fascinating Facts

Fish are covered in scales and slime, which helps them to swim through the water.

African lungfish cover themselves in a mud tunnel underneath the water in the lake they live in. After their lake has dried up, they can live for years buried in the mud, breathing air and waiting for it to rain and fill the lake with water again.

## Where Do They Live?

Fish are found in all of the world's seas and oceans from the warm tropical seas to the icy polar waters. The type of fish they are depends on where they choose to live. Some fish prefer living in between coral and plants or further down towards the bottom of the sea, resting on the sandy seabed. Others prefer to live near the surface of the water.

## What Do They Eat?

Fish eat different foods. Some fish eat plants that grow in the sea or algae from the side of rocks. Whilst others, such as the shark, eat other fish and animals including humans.

## Staying Safe

Flatfish, such as halibut, flounder, turbot and sole, can change their colours and patterns so they are the same as their surroundings. They often bury themselves in the sand so they are not seen.

Balloon fish and pufferfish can blow their bodies up and use sharp spines and scales to defend themselves.

# Questions about...

## Fish

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. What do fish have instead of legs?

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2. Where do fish live?

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3. What do fish eat?

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4. How do flatfish stay safe?

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5. What do pufferfish do to defend themselves?

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6. Why do African lungfish cover themselves in mud?

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