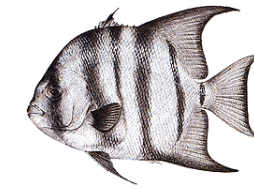


# Read a Fish Guide

## Body Shape



**Streamlined (Fusiform or Sagittiform)**  
strong swimmers, quick acceleration, lie and wait predators



**Laterally Compressed**  
Slow swimmer, high maneuverability



**Dorsally Compressed**  
Bottom Dweller

## Mouth Shape



**Inferior**  
Feeds on, near the bottom



**Terminal**  
Active hunter, feeds in front



**Superior**  
May gulp air or feed near the surface

## Caudal Fin Shape



**Lunate**

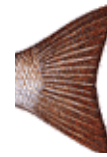


**Forked**

Rapid swimmer, constantly moving, low maneuverability



**Squared**



**Emarginate**



**Round**

Strong swimmer, slow, high maneuverability

## Camouflage



**Reflective scales**  
Assist schooling fish with predator avoidance, often open water



**Cryptic Coloration**  
Allows fish to blend in with habitat



**Disruptive coloration**  
Patterns, stripes, spots to break up the body shape

## Other



**Barbels**  
Sensory organ for taste/smell



**Venomous Spines**  
Modified spines that inject venom



**Eyes**  
Size, location of eyes tells about quality of vision



**Modified fins**  
Assist with defense, hunting, senses or movement



# “Read” a Fish Activity

In the presentation are several marine fish. You may or may not know the names of them, but what is more important is being able to “cold read” or take clues from their body shape and structures to describe how they survive and thrive in their environment. Use the Read a Fish guide and clues with each individual fish to help you describe the general lifestyle of each species. Under the answer button is the scientific and common name of the fish.

Example: *Fish 1: Sunfish* This fish has a laterally compressed body which indicates that I am fairly maneuverable, but it also has a somewhat-forked caudal fin which means it is probably moving around a lot and is a decent swimmer. Its eyes are facing forward, which is an indication that it catches its food directly in front of it.

FISH 1:

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FISH 2:

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FISH 3:

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FISH 4:

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Fish 5:

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Fish 6:

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Fish 7:

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