

Fish

My fish friends come in all shapes and sizes. What do you see in these descriptions that helps a fish fit into or adapt to living in the river?

Mouths

A fish's mouth can tell you a lot about where they live and what they eat. A fish with a sucker shaped mouth feeds on very small plants and animals. A fish with a bottom facing mouth may eat algae off of rocks or bottom dwelling insects.

A fish with an upward facing mouth may eat bugs off the surface.

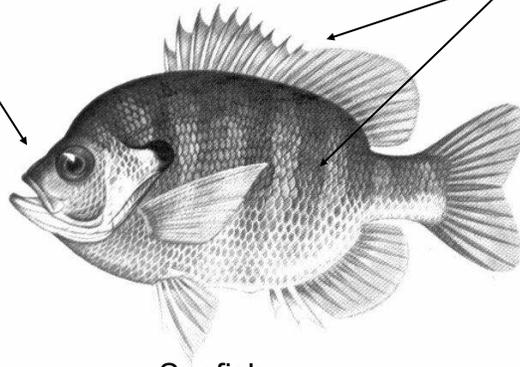
Fish with jaws (like a bass) use their mouths to grasp or surround their prey or food. Fish with longer upper jaws feeds on prey below them, while fish with longer lower jaws feed on prey above them.



Sucker



Catfish



Sunfish

Coloring

Fish have camouflage to hide from predators and disguise themselves from prey. They are colored to blend in with the river. When you are looking down at fish, they blend into the dark bottom of the river.

When you look up underneath the fish, the lighter belly blends in with the sky.

Fish that have mottled coloring can hide in rocks and on the bottom.

Fish with vertical or horizontal stripes can hide in vegetation.

Protection

Some fish have spines to protect themselves from predators. Spines are usually part of fins.

Scales

Some fish have scales. Fish without scales (like eels and catfish) often have a slippery layer of mucous on their skin for protection.

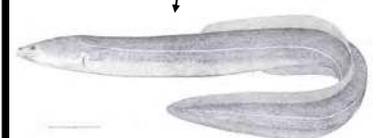
Body Shape

A fish with a torpedo shape is a fast mover. A fish with a flat belly lives and feeds on the bottom. A fish with a hump on its back is stable in fast moving water.

Fish can also be shaped like a disk which is round and flat (like a sunfish).



Bass



Eel