

# How Fish Use Special Body Features

Grade 3

English

Nonfiction

Underwater Theme

~145 words

CCSS.ELA.RI.3.5

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**READ — READ THIS PASSAGE CAREFULLY. YOU MAY READ IT TWICE.**

Fish have special body features that help them survive underwater. Their gills allow them to breathe water by taking in oxygen. Fish also have fins that work like paddles to help them swim fast and turn quickly. Another important feature is their scales, which are small plates that cover their bodies and protect them from danger. The shape of a fish's body helps it move smoothly through water without using too much energy. Some fish are long and thin, while others are round and flat. These different shapes help fish live in different underwater places. For example, a flat fish can hide on the sandy bottom of the ocean. A long, thin fish can swim quickly through coral reefs. Fish also have eyes that see well in dark water. All of these features work together to help fish survive and thrive in their underwater homes.

*Tip: Read the passage twice before turning to the questions on the next page.*

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Questions

⇒ **ANSWER** USE THE PASSAGE ON PAGE 1 TO HELP FIND YOUR ANSWERS.

## MAIN IDEA

**1. What is this passage mostly about?**

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## TEXT EVIDENCE

**2. According to the passage, what do gills help fish do?**

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## VOCABULARY

**3. What does the word 'scales' mean in this passage?**

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## INFERENCE

**4. Why would a flat fish's shape be helpful on the sandy bottom of the ocean?**

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## CAUSE AND EFFECT

**5. What happens because fish have fins?**

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## TEXT EVIDENCE

**6. Name two different fish body shapes mentioned in the passage and explain why they are useful.**

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# ✓ ANSWER KEY — How Fish Use Special Body Features

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TEACHER / PARENT USE ONLY — Suggested answers shown below each question

Fish have special body features that help them survive underwater. Their gills allow them to breathe water by taking in oxygen. Fish also have fins that work like paddles to help them swim fast and turn quickly. Another important feature is their scales, which are small plates that cover their bodies and protect them from danger. The shape of a fish's body helps it move smoothly through water without using too much energy. Some fish are long and thin, while others are round and flat. These different shapes help fish live in different underwater places. For example, a flat fish can hide on the sandy bottom of the ocean. A long, thin fish can swim quickly through coral reefs. Fish also have eyes that see well in dark water. All of these features work together to help fish survive and thrive in their underwater homes.

## MAIN IDEA

### 1. What is this passage mostly about?

This passage is mostly about the special body features that help fish survive and live underwater.

## TEXT EVIDENCE

### 2. According to the passage, what do gills help fish do?

According to the passage, gills allow fish to breathe water by taking in oxygen.

## VOCABULARY

### 3. What does the word 'scales' mean in this passage?

Scales are small plates that cover a fish's body and protect it from danger.

## INFERENCE

### 4. Why would a flat fish's shape be helpful on the sandy bottom of the ocean?

A flat fish's shape would be helpful because it can hide easily on the sandy bottom and stay hidden from predators.

## CAUSE AND EFFECT

### 5. What happens because fish have fins?

Because fish have fins, they can swim fast and turn quickly through the water.

## TEXT EVIDENCE

### 6. Name two different fish body shapes mentioned in the passage and explain why they are useful.

Long, thin fish can swim quickly through coral reefs, and flat fish can hide on the sandy ocean bottom. These shapes help fish live in different underwater places.