

SCIENTIFIC KEYS: FISH ADAPTATIONS

HOW TO USE?




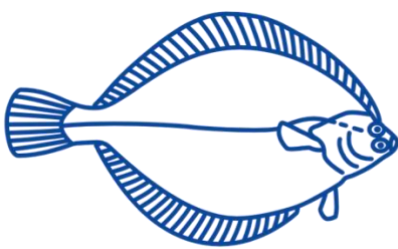

See [Teacher Outline: Fish Body Shapes \(Adaptations\)](#) for activities and [Slide Set: Fish Body Shapes \(Adaptations\)](#) for further context.

NOTE: These keys have been adapted from an activity by [Monterey Bay Aquarium](#)



SCIENTIFIC KEY 1: FISH BODY SHAPES

(CLUES TO WHERE & HOW A FISH LIVES)

<p>Torpedo shape (Open water)</p>	
<p>Boxy shape (Among coral and rocks)</p>	
<p>Round & narrow (Tight places)</p>	
<p>Flat (Sandy bottom)</p>	
<p>Elongated (Around and under rocks)</p>	



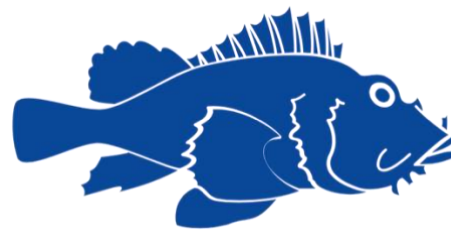
SCIENTIFIC KEY 2: FISH EYE SHAPES

(CLUES TO WHERE A FISH SPENDS TIME)

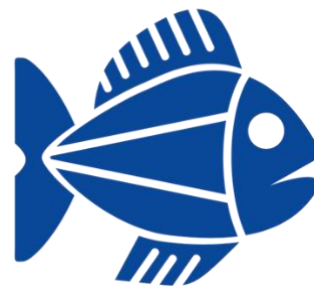
One eye on each side
(Usually swims above the sea floor)



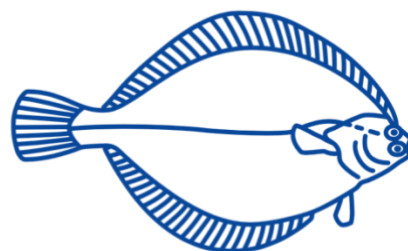
Both eyes on top of head
(Sits on or near the seafloor)



Large eyes
(Light gathering / spends time in dark places)



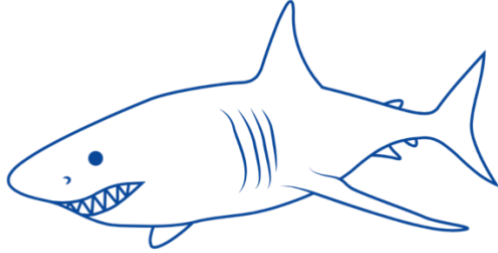
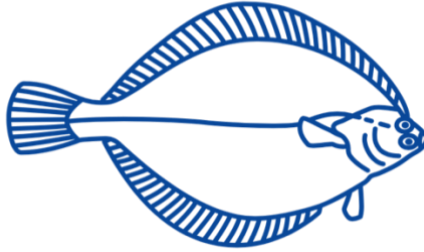
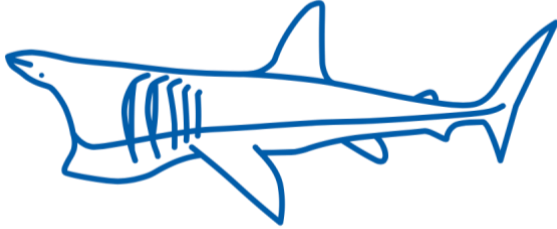
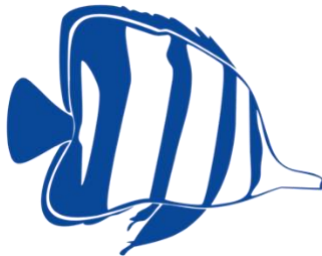
Both eyes on one side of head
(Usually stays on the sea floor)






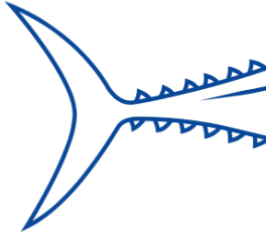
SCIENTIFIC KEY 3: FISH MOUTH SHAPES

(CLUES TO HOW & WHERE IT EATS)

<p>Mouth with teeth (Bites & catches prey)</p>	
<p>Mouth on underside (Bottom feeder)</p>	
<p>Big wide mouth (Gulps its food)</p>	
<p>Long skinny mouth (Probes into cracks)</p>	



SCIENTIFIC KEY 4: FISH CAUDAL OR TAIL FINS (CLUES TO SWIMMING SPEED)

<p>Squared / truncated tail fin (Moderate speed; sprint starts)</p>	
<p>Forked tail fin (Very fast speed, often open water habitat)</p>	
<p>Pointed tail fin (Fast speed)</p>	