



PROGRAM GOALS

- Learn about how marine fish swim in the sea
- Discuss their directions, stability, and locomotion

GRADES

4th to 5th

MATERIALS

- Pencils
- Clipboards

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Grade worksheet based on completeness
- Assess students on appropriateness of words used to describe swimming

How Do They Swim?

Practice your students' observation skills as they learn about the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo marine fish and how they swim. Each fish uses each fin for different reasons, so join us and help us identify which fin is using for what. See below for a variety of questions to engage your student even further:

- Can you describe how they are swimming?
- Which fins do they use to change direction?
- Which fin is used to swim forward?
- What are the other purposes that fins are used for?

Fish use their fins to move through the water, but each fish have different primary fins to complete this action. Tropical fish are unique and colorful due to their vast diversity, which can be observed in their fins. Some fins may be exaggerated and elaborate, while others may be small and hard to view. Have students complete the worksheet as they observe ten fish in the aquarium at the zoo. Once they complete their worksheet, have students discuss different their findings of the frequency of each type and what they concluded about which one is the primary fin. Share your lessons with the Fort Wayne Children' Zoo. Tag #fwkidszoo or email education@kidszoo.org to express how you used these supplemental activities!

Fins Purpose:

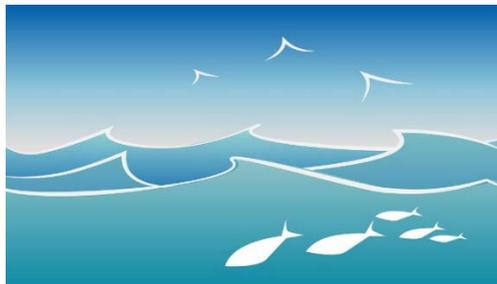
Pectoral fin: Used for balancing, changing direction, braking, or moving forward. Most fish use this fin to control direction.

Dorsal fin: Used to help with quick turns, stops, and prevent rolling. It helps with stability.

Caudal fin: Used for locomotion and speed in most fishes, where it propels fish forward.

Anal fin: Used to support dorsal fin and stabilize fish during swimming.

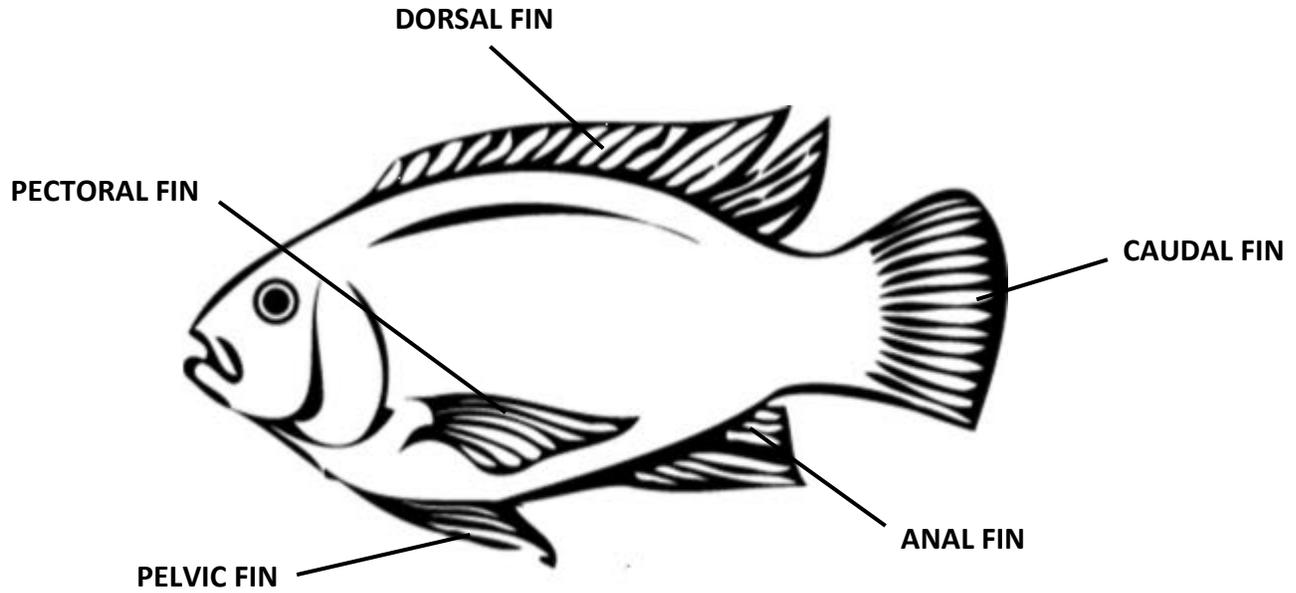
Pelvic fin: Used for stability and to slow down fish. Commonly used for moving up and down in the water.



Which Fin is Used to Swim?



Name: _____



Choose 10 fish to observe and record how many times you see a specific fin being used as the primary fin.

PECTORAL FIN	DORSAL FIN	CAUDAL FIN	PELVIC FIN	ANAL FIN

Why do you think the fin you found to be used the most among the ten fish?
