

Fish Vocabulary:

gills — breathing organs

operculum — gill cover

cartilage — flexible connective tissue

scales — thin, flexible structures that overlap to form a protective covering

lateral line — system of sensory organs on each side of a fish that are believed to detect pressure and sound allowing the fish to detect depth, the presence of sea creatures and their distance away

dorsal fin — on top of fish used to help fish to stay upright

anal — on bottom of fish close to tail used to help fish stay upright

caudal fin — tail fin used to propel fish through water and steer

pectoral fins — paired fins just behind the head on the sides; used to turn, stop, and make maneuvers

pelvic — on bottom of fish under pectoral fins; used to turn, stop, and make maneuvers

FUTURE CLASS NOTE: The Nature Center is beginning to collect plastic one gallon milk containers for each student to use at a future class. Please bring one (or more) with you as you are able.