

# 10 Fish Questions & Answers

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## Can fish fly?

Yes, some fish can fly. They have specialized fins that allow them to swim fast and leap to the surface and glide through the air above the water. The ability to fly above the water surface is a way for them to escape from other fish that are trying to hurt them.

2

## Do fish sleep?

Fish do sleep. You can tell when a fish is sleeping as they are motionless. They can sleep during the day or night. Fish sleep with the eyes open as they do not have eyelids. You can tell when they are sleeping because they are slow to respond, and their gills are moving very slowly.



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## Do fish eat plants or meat?

Most fish in aquariums eat both and they are called omnivores. If a fish only eats plants, it is called herbivores. If they are strict meat eaters, they are carnivores.

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## What do we call fish that come out at night?

Fish that are active at night are called Nocturnal. Fish that are nocturnal often have big eyes to help them see better at night.

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## Do fish have teeth?

Yes, all fish have teeth. Some fish have very flat stubby teeth called molars. Fish with molars are normally bottom living fish to crushing and grinding food like clams and mussels. Fish such as Piranhas and Barracudas have very sharp teeth to catch their dinner. Most fish have teeth designed to shred things like algae.

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## Do fish breathe underwater?

Yes, fish breathe with a specialized organ called gills. Gills are just behind their face on the sides of their bodies. Fish breathe by bringing water into their mouth out over their gills. The gills remove the oxygen from water into the blood.



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## What is the name for the tail of a fish?

Fish have several different fins and their tail fin is called a Caudal Fin. The word comes from Latin and simply means tail. Fish use their caudal fin to propel themselves through the water. Other fins have names too, such as pectoral, pelvic and dorsal.

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## Are jellyfish really fish?

No, and they do not have a brain, heart, skeleton or blood. Jellyfish are called invertebrates because they do not have a backbone. Jellyfish are made up of 95% water.

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**Do fish live longer than humans?**

Yes, some fish live very long lives. In fact, Koi fish have been reported to live well past 150 years old.

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**Do fish have eyelids?**

No, fish do not have eyelids except for sharks. We need eyelids to keep our eyes moist and protect them from dust. As fish live in water, they have no need to keep their eyes moist, so they do not need eyelids.



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