

Vocabulary

Study the vocabulary words and definitions below.

Agnatha group of jawless fish with cartilage skeletons; includes lampreys and hagfish

ampullae of Lorenzini nerve receptors in tiny pores in the shark's snout that can detect electric fields of other animals

buoyancy tendency to remain afloat in a liquid or gas

cartilage firm but flexible material that makes up the skeletons of sharks, rays, lampreys, and hagfish

cartilaginous class of fish with skeletons of cartilage; includes sharks and rays

caudal at or near the tail

countershading coloration in many fish where the dorsal side is dark and the ventral side of the fish is light

denticles small toothlike structures that cover the body of sharks and rays

disruptive coloration coloration in fish where the colored body pattern contains many lines which hide the fish's outline and helps camouflage the fish

Vocabulary

dorsal	located on the back
fusiform	a streamlined body shape exhibited by many pelagic fish
gill slits	visible opening for breathing found in cartilaginous fish only
lamprey	a jawless parasitic fish with a tubelike body and large teeth
lateral line	line of sensitive sound receptors along each side of a fish's body
operculum	flap of tissue that covers the fish's gills
pectoral	at or near the chest
scales	thin, flat plates that make up the covering of bony fish
school	large group of fish of the same type, size, and age that travel and feed together
spawning	depositing or releasing a mass of eggs and sperm directly into the water
swim bladder	gas- or air-filled organ that regulates the buoyancy of bony fish
ventral	located on the stomach or belly