

FISH!



THEY have been living on this planet for almost a half billion years. There are more than 30,000 different kinds of them. And their home covers almost three-quarters of the earth's surface.



tube sponge

red finger sponge



What are they?
(Hint: turn the page to find out...)

All fish also have a backbone, which makes them vertebrates, like us! But unlike people, fish are cold-blooded—their body temperature changes with the temperature of the water around them. Fish bodies are usually covered with shiny little plates, called scales.



barracuda

triggerfish

seahorse

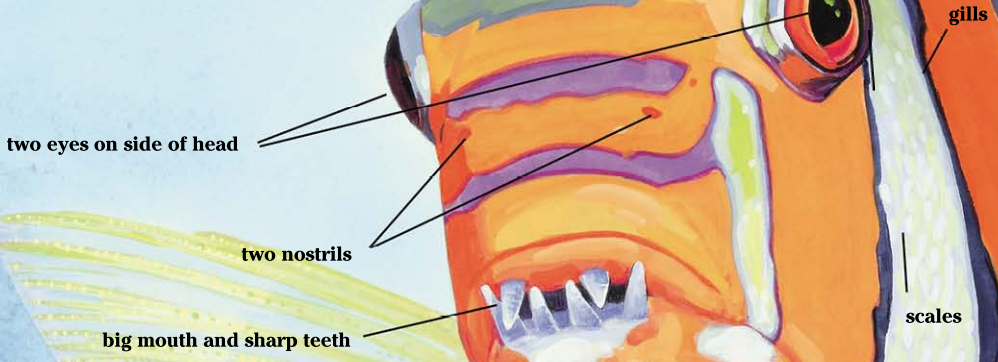
green moray eel

Most fish have two round eyes, one on each side of the head. And they can see almost all the way around themselves—without turning their heads. That comes in handy when looking for food or trying to avoid becoming food!

Many fish have large mouths, and sharp teeth—perfect for grabbing and tearing food!

Fish don't have eyelids, so they can't close their eyes!

harlequin tuskfish



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