

Facts about sea animals (Fish characteristic)

1. Do fish have taste buds?

Just like other terrestrial animals, fish do have [taste buds](#). However, their taste buds are not only present in the mouth but also throughout their body, including lips, [fins](#), [gills](#) and [barbels](#). The number and location of taste buds vary from species to species, depending on lifestyle, habitat, and feeding habits

2. How many species of fish are there all over the world?

All over the world there are about 34000 species of [fish](#) that are distributed in different habitats. The number of species of [mammals](#), [amphibians](#), [reptiles](#), and [birds](#) altogether is less than the total fish species.

3. Do you know how fish can breathe?

A specialized structure found in the fish's body is called a gill. A fish's gills consist of two parts. These are the gill arches and the gill filaments. The filamentous structure present in the body of fish is known as the gill filaments and the structure that has blood vessels in it is known as the gill arch.

Fish gills extract dissolved oxygen from water and release carbon dioxide into the surrounding environment, meaning they are the organ of respiration in fish. Besides that, fish gills also take part in [osmoregulation](#) and waste excretion. Fish gills play a role in maintaining water and ion balance through osmoregulation. Fish gills also remove nitrogenous waste material, such as ammonia, from the body of fish.

4. Do you know that most fish are cold-blooded animals?

Fish are [cold-blooded animals](#). An animal where internal body temperature depends on the surrounding temperature is known as cold-blooded animals. External factors, such as water, affect the body temperature of cold-blooded animals. They are unable to generate heat or to regulate their internal body temperature. Most of the fish are cold-blooded animals, but there are some exceptions, such as [tuna](#), [mackerel sharks](#), and [moon fish](#), which are [warm-blooded](#) and able to regulate body temperature.

5. Do you know whether the fish are vertebrates or invertebrates?

*Fish are vertebrates, **not invertebrates**. [Vertebrates](#) are animals that have a spinal cord or vertebral column. They have a brain covered with a cranium, also called a skull, a closed circulatory system, a chambered heart, paired appendages, and a well-developed nervous system and excretory system. Vertebrate skin is covered with scales. They show bilateral symmetry; that means a vertebrate's body is divided into two equal halves.*

References

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