



Comparative Fish Dissection



Pre - Class Activity

Dissection Discussion

Introduction: Soon you will be participating in a class comparing fish in a dissection-based class at Driftwood Education Center. This class will introduce students to the valuable tool of dissection and the instruments that we may use during the class! Complete the following activity to prepare for your visit.

Materials: A board and marker to draw an animal for the class to see.

Directions: Discuss the following questions about dissection as a scientific tool with your class. Once completed, draw a picture of any animal (example below). Write the following dissection terms on the board—these may come up during class! Guide students in placing them on the animal according to their definition.

1. What is dissection?
2. Why is dissection a useful tool for scientists?
3. If we looked ONLY at the outside of two animals, might we think these two animals are closely related? (ex. Eel and Snake; Frog and Toad, etc.) How would we better be able to distinguish/differentiate these two animals?
4. When dissecting, how should we behave? How should we treat the specimen?
5. (Optional) When dissecting, students will be asked to refocus on the instructor leading the class after exploring parts of the fish. Create and practice an attention getter with the class so they know when to look at the instructor with hands flat on the table. The goal is to have students pause in their exploration for discussion and education purposes. Feel free to share this attention getter with your instructor upon arrival!

Ventral – the abdominal or underside of an animal or plant

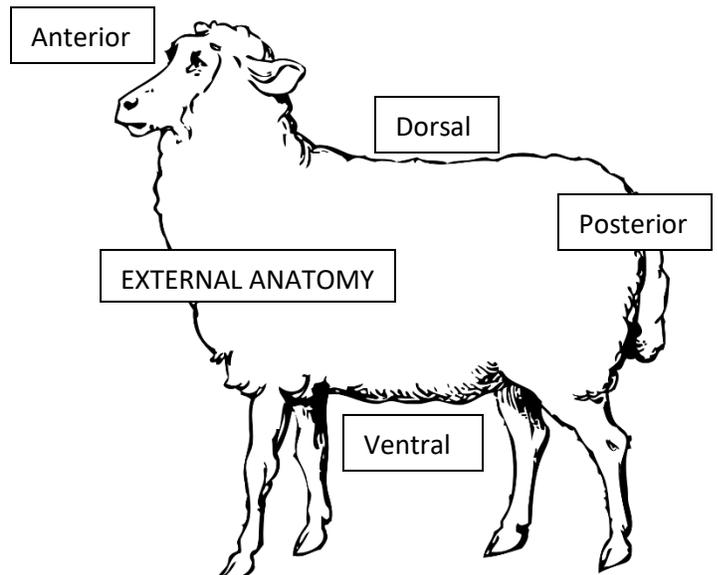
Dorsal – the upper or backside of an animal or plant

Anterior – situated nearer the front of the body or nearer the head

Posterior – situated nearer the rear or hind end of the body

External Anatomy – referring to the outside parts of an organism

Internal Anatomy – referring to the inside parts of an organism



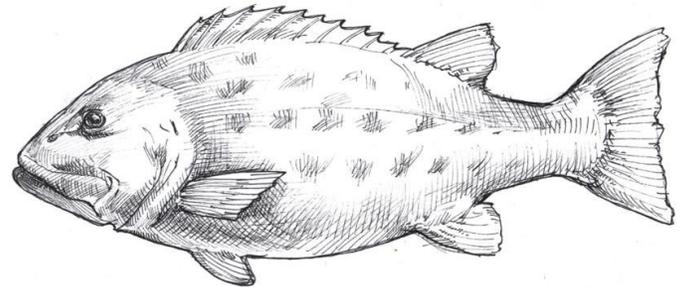
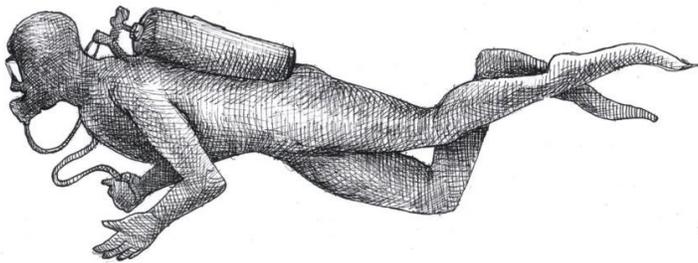


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Post - Class Activity

Introduction: You have just completed a dissection comparing two fish: Black Seabass and Striped Mullet. Now that you have practiced comparing two similar animals, use your new skills to write some similarities and differences between a human and one of the fish you dissected! Color any similarities you see between the two images in blue and write what they are in the column marked 'Similarities'. Color any dissimilarities you see in red and write what they are in the column marked 'Differences'. Feel free to use the word bank below to help you remember important terms you learned during class!



Similarities:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Differences:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Word Bank:

Fins	Gills	Vent	Nares	Lateral Line	Heart
	Scales	Swim Bladder		Spines	Jaws
Lens	Operculum	Stomach		Teeth	Vertebrate