

Animals and Living Creatures (Science)

Are All Sea Creatures Fish?

Many animals live in the ocean – but **not all of them are fish!**

Your task:

1. Look at the sea creatures below.
2. Sort each one into the correct group:

Fish (have gills, live in water, have fins + scales)

Not Fish (may be mammals, reptiles, or invertebrates)



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Teacher
Guidance

Are All Sea Creatures Fish?

Objective:

Pupils will classify sea animals into scientific groups and explain why not all sea creatures are fish.

Curriculum Links (KS2 Science):

- ★ Living things and their habitats – classification
- ★ Animals including humans – comparing animal groups
- ★ Working scientifically – grouping and sorting

Key knowledge to pre-teach:

Characteristics of a **fish**:

- ✓ Has gills to breathe underwater
- ✓ Has fins and usually scales
- ✓ Cold-blooded
- ✓ Lives in water its whole life

Other sea animals may be:

- ★ **Mammals** (dolphin) – breathe air with lungs, give birth to live young
- ★ **Reptiles** (sea turtle) – breathe air, lay eggs on land
- ★ **Invertebrates** (octopus, jellyfish, crab)

Suggested lesson steps:

1. Show images of different ocean creatures.
2. Ask: “Which of these are fish? How do you know?”
3. Pupils complete the sorting table independently or in pairs.
4. Discuss reasoning as a class – focus on characteristics.
5. Pupils complete the short written explanation.

Differentiation:

- ★ **Support:** Provide definition cards (fish/mammal/reptile/invertebrate).
- ★ **Stretch:** Ask pupils to research another ocean creature and classify it.

Assessment:

- ✓ Correct grouping of animals
- ✓ Uses scientific vocabulary (gills, lungs, invertebrate, mammal)
- ✓ Written explanation shows reasoning

Extension:

Pupils create a mini “classification key”:

Example: Does it breathe underwater?

→ Yes → Does it have fins and scales? → Fish

→ No → Does it have lungs and give birth to live young? → Mammal