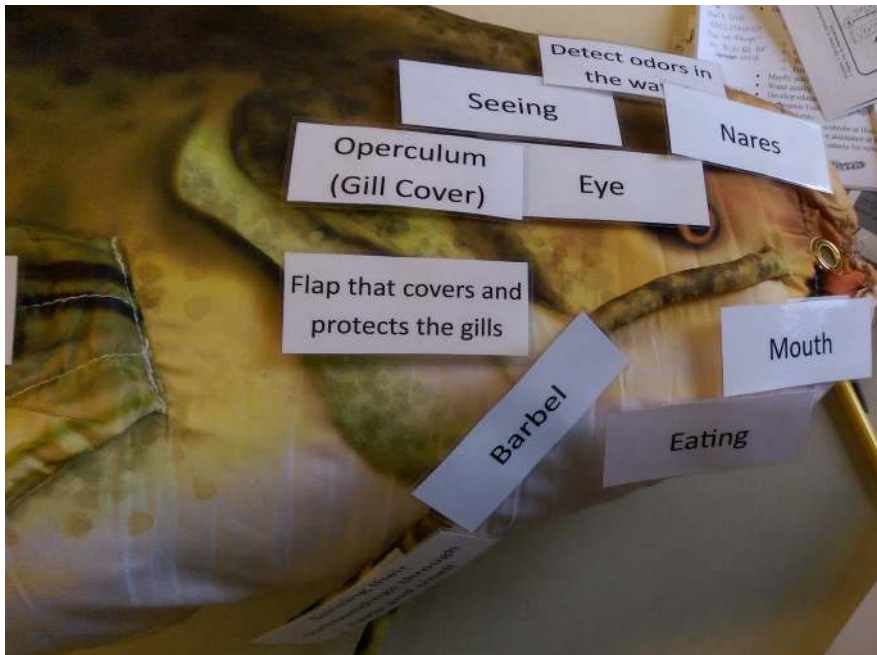


## Answers to front half of pillow



## Facts about fish in general

- Fish have gills instead of lungs that allow them to breathe underwater.
- All fish hear with their lateral line. It's the faint line that runs down their sides, and it allows them to pick up on vibrations in the water caused by other creatures. They can distinguish their prey, predators, and others like them apart because they each make different sounds in the water.
- Because of the positioning their eyes, fish have a hard time seeing what is behind them.
- Bony fish (those with skeletons primarily made of bone tissue as opposed to cartilage) have a swim bladder. A swim bladder is a gas-filled sac that allows the fish to maintain and control buoyance.
  - ♦ Bony fish examples: trout, walleye, catfish, bass, etc.
  - ♦ Cartilaginous fish examples: sharks, skates, rays, sawfish, etc.
- Dorsal fins are used as defense mechanisms because they make the fish appear to be larger than it actually is to predators.
- Adipose fins are only found in fish in the catfish, salmon, and trout families. The function of the adipose fins is unknown to scientists, but it is thought that it may help make swimming easier in fast moving waters.

## Facts about catfish

- There are 3,000 known species of catfish on the planet.
- Catfish are primarily found in freshwater environments, but some are found in marine environments.
- Catfish are found on every continent except for Antarctica.
- Catfish range in size from 6 inches long (toothpick fish; found in the Amazon River) to 10 feet long (Mekong giant catfish, which is the largest reported freshwater fish; found in the lower portion of the Mekong River, which flows through Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam).
- Generally, catfish have a carnivorous diet. They tend to eat fish, insects, and worms that dwell close to the river bed along with amphibians such as frogs and newts, and occasionally small reptiles and mammals.
- They also have a diversity of predators because of their range in size. Amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and birds of prey all eat catfish.
- Catfish don't have scales, which is the reason they are so slimy.
- Not all catfish have barbels ("whiskers").
- Their barbels won't sting you, but they do have spines on the front of their dorsal and pectoral fins that have venom that will cause swelling if the spine punctures the skin.
- How they hear
  - ♦ The swim bladder in a catfish is connected to their inner ear, which allows them to detect vibrations that are amplified by their swim bladders.
  - ♦ Those sounds that are too soft to be heard by their swim bladder can be detected by their lateral line.
    - ⇒ With their lateral lines they can detect creatures at the surface, swimming through the water, or even walking along the shore.
- How they taste
  - ♦ They can have taste buds covering their bodies.
  - ♦ Their barbels also contain taste buds that allow them to sense what they are about to eat.
- How they see
  - ♦ They have excellent sight, and they have special eyes that reflect light back out, which makes them have excellent night vision.
- How they smell
  - ♦ They have a very well developed sense of smell because they can smell with both their nares and barbels.