

Student Activity 1: What Is A Sawfish?

Sawfish are magnificent and unique aquatic animals!

Today you will learn what a sawfish is and its anatomical adaptations for living in its natural habitat.

Background

Sawfish are closely related to other fish which share many characteristics. In addition, sawfish have one anatomical feature that makes them unique in the animal kingdom. This unique anatomical feature serves important functions.

Key Questions

What other fish appear similar in shape and appearance to the sawfish?

Does the sawfish have close relatives? If so, who are these relatives?

What makes the sawfish a unique animal?

What purpose does each of the following anatomical features serve?

1. Rostrum
2. Eyes
3. Spiracles
4. Pectoral fins
5. Dorsal fins
6. Pelvic fins
7. Caudal fin

Instructions

Before getting started on this activity, make an educated guess to which other animals are closely related to sawfish and why you think this. Next, you will fill out the anatomy activity sheet with the names of the different anatomical features of sawfish. Your class will discuss what purpose each of these anatomical features serves.

Questions

- 1) Why is anatomical feature an important adaptation for the survival of the sawfish?
- 2) Which anatomical feature could also be detrimental to the sawfish and why?
- 3) Was your guess correct? If so, why?

Extra Credit

Try drawing a sawfish again, with your newly acquired knowledge learned during this teaching activity.



Sawfish Anatomy

Fill In The Blanks!

