



Shapes and mouths

Lesson plan: how reef fish body shapes and mouths match how they live, with MCP photos from Negros Oriental and a design-a-fish task



Ages	8 to 11 (grades 3 to 6)
Time	45 to 60 minutes
Group	Up to 35 students
Where	Any classroom. No internet needed.
You need	The slides, one worksheet per student, colouring pens

What students learn

- Fish have body shapes that suit where they live and how they swim.
- Fish mouths are adapted to what they eat.
- Some surprising fish facts, such as parrotfish making sand.
- How to design a fish for a habitat and explain its adaptations.

Before the lesson

1. Print one **design a fish** worksheet per student.

The lesson

- 1 A reef full of fish **5 minutes, slides 1 and 2**. Ask students about fish they know.
- 2 Shapes and mouths **15 minutes, slides 3 and 4**. Go through each photo.
- 3 Parrotfish sand **5 minutes, slide 5**. A favourite fact to finish the input.
- 4 Design a fish **20 minutes, slide 6**. Students draw and label.
- 5 Wrap up **5 minutes, slide 7**. Share a few designs.

Answers and what to listen for

Good designs: an open-water fish is streamlined and silvery, a coral-crack fish is small or thin with a pointed mouth, a sandy-bottom fish is flat and sand-coloured, and a seagrass fish is long, thin and green. Any design is fine if the student can explain it.

Making it easier or harder

- **Younger groups:** choose the habitat together as a class.
- **Older groups:** research a real fish that matches their design.

Curriculum links

- **Science:** living things, adaptation, habitats.
- **Arts:** drawing and labelling.
- **Ocean Literacy Principle 5:** the ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.

The teacher reading has the science behind every slide, with links to the sources.

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