

Shark Dissection Vocabulary

Anterior:	Near the front
Cartilage:	Firm, flexible connective tissue
Caudal Fin:	The tail fin. The main fin responsible for propulsion
Dorsal:	The top side
Dorsal Fin:	The fin located on the top of the fish as well as some marine mammals. Helps with stabilization
Gill Slits:	Series of openings between the gill arches of a fish, through which water passes
Lateral Line:	A visible line along the side of a fish consisting of a series of sense organs which detect pressure and vibration
Pectoral Fin:	One of the pair of fins that are situated one on each side of the fish just behind the gills. Normally, they are used for balancing, braking, and creating lift
Pelvic Fin:	Pair of fins located on the bottom of the fish in front of the anal fin. Help balance the fish, keep it level, and prevent it from rolling from side to side
Posterior:	The back half
Ventral:	The underside