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