

# Dead Yellow Perch Parts

**Adapted from:** An original Creek Connections activity created from the Ward Biological Fish Anatomy model.

**Grade Level:** Intermediate or advanced

**Duration:** 30 minutes

**Setting:** classroom

**Summary:** Students examine a diagram of a Yellow Perch and attempt to match the perch's body part with its function while filling in the blanks on the worksheet.

**Objectives:** Students study the internal and external anatomy of a Yellow Perch and learn the functions of the fish's specific organs

**Vocabulary:** anatomy, air bladder, anal fin, anus, caudal fin, cerebellum, cerebrum, dorsal aorta, first dorsal fin, gills, heart, intestine, kidney, liver, medulla oblongata, ovary, pelvic fin, pyloric caecum, second dorsal fin, spinal cord, spleen, stomach, urinary bladder

**Related Module Resources:**

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**Materials (Included in Module):**

- Worksheet, answer key, diagram, overhead of diagram
- Ward Biological Model of a Yellow Perch

**Additional Materials (NOT Included in Module):**

- Overhead projector,
- Photocopies of original worksheet are needed
- Photocopies of Word Bank (optional)

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS:

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

- 3.3.4.B. Know that living things are made up of parts that have specific functions.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

- 3.3.7.A. Describe the similarities and differences that characterize diverse living things.

### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

- 3.3.10.A Explain the structural and functional similarities and differences found among living things.

### 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

- 3.3.12.A Explain the relationship between structure and function at all levels of organization.

## BACKGROUND:

Fish are very important to waterway ecosystems and they play many valuable roles in the French Creek Watershed. They help maintain the balance needed for organisms to survive and the waterway to remain healthy. In the study of science, fish provide an excellent example for an understanding of **anatomy**. Anatomy is all the parts found in the structure of a plant or animal. One fish that is useful in studying anatomy is the Yellow Perch, which lives in the French Creek watershed. Yellow Perch (*Perca flavescens*) are one of 130 species that belong in the perch family (Percidae). "These freshwater fish can be found in streams, lakes, ponds and rivers with clear water and aquatic vegetation. They can be identified by their oblong bodies and golden yellow or brassy colored scales. There are also 6–7 dark vertical bands that run from the dorsal area to near the belly. Yellow Perch typically have olive colored dorsal and caudal fins, along with greenish orange pelvic and anal fins. The heaviest perch on record weighed 4¼ lb (1.9 kg), but the average weight is about 2 lb," (Carolina Biological, 1998).

The anatomy of a fish is best studied with the use of a side-view internal diagram or an incased specimen that has been cut in a way that reveals the fish's internal anatomy. Each part in the internal and external anatomy of a Yellow Perch serves a purpose in the fish's daily function. For example, the **ventral aorta**, located near the heart, controls blood flow and the **anal fin**, located on the exterior of the fish, helps the perch to swim by working as a steering mechanism.