

# Morphology Table Worksheet



# Body Shape Adaptation Chart

Body Shape	Description	Example
Fusiform		
Depressed	Flattened from back to belly like a pancake; use short bursts of speed to ambush prey; common in bottom dwelling fish	
Globiform		
Ribbon	Snake-like; slow swimmers but move easily through small cracks and crevices where they hide to ambush prey	Eels
Compressed		Flounders, sergeant majors



# Tail Shape Adaptation Chart

Tail Shape	Description	Example
Lunate (fastest)		
Forked		
Squared		
Rounded	Very maneuverable, capable of bursts of speed for short distances	Goby
Tapered	Slow swimmers, use body undulations to swim	Moray eel



# Color Pattern Adaptation Chart

Color Pattern	Description	Example
Camouflage		
Advertising	Warning to stay away from poisons or spines; attract mates, defend territories, clean other fish	Hawaiian cleaner wrasse
Disruptive		
Deceiving	Resembling an object or fish that is not of interest to a predator; markings that confuse predator	Butterfly fish, prettyfins
Countershading		



# Mouth Shape Adaptation Chart

Mouth Shape	Description	Example
Superior		
Terminal	Middle of head; points forward; feed on organisms floating in water column	
Inferior	Downwards shape; suggests bottom-feeder; often have barbels that assist in locating food particles	
Protruding		Minnows, goldfish
Elongated		Gar; Needlefish



# Teeth and Gill Raker Adaptation Chart

Teeth and Gill Raker Features	Description	Example
Pointed Teeth		
Tooth Plates		
Beak -like Teeth	Crush prey items; suggests it feeds items like on plants or coral	Parrotfish; pufferfish
Comb-like Gill Rakers		
Large, course Gill Rakers	Protects gills when they eat from large prey items	Lingcod

