

# BRAD THE SHAD



My body is covered in small scales.

My tail fin helps me to swim fast.

Hi! I'm Brad the Shad.

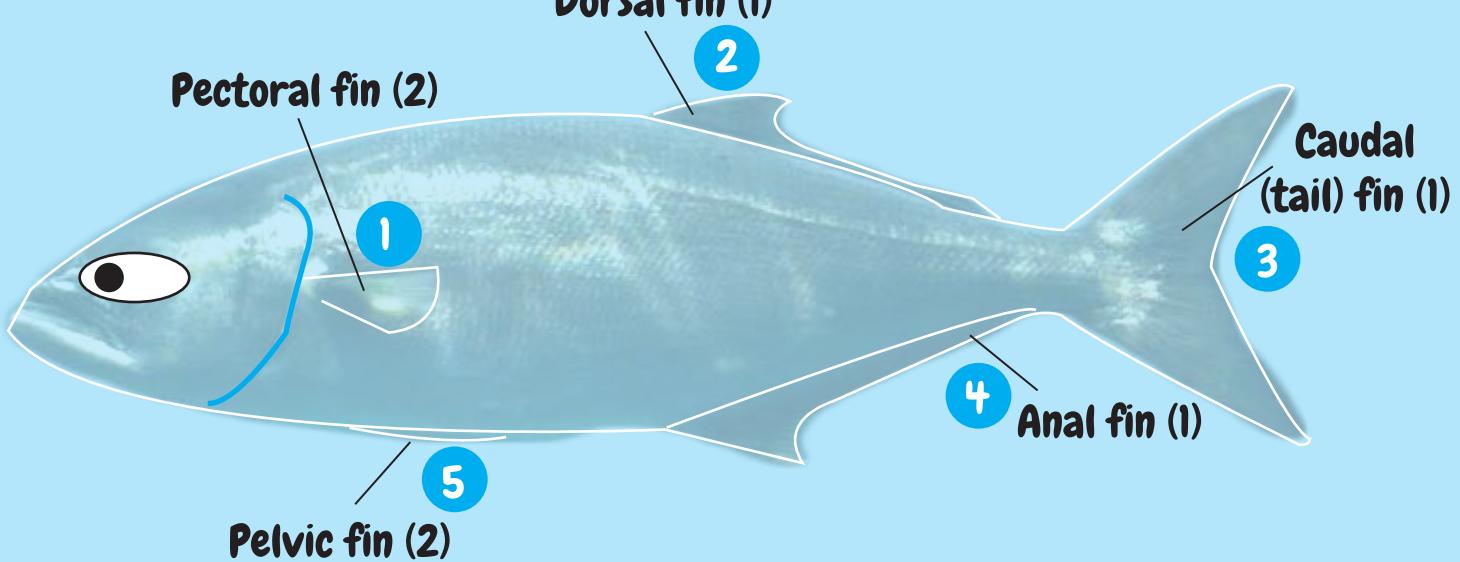


I swim in the sea along the South African coast.

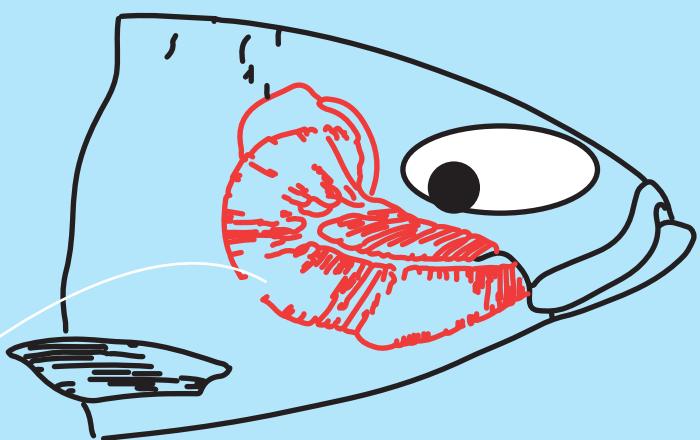
I have a long body with a forked tail.



I have seven fins.

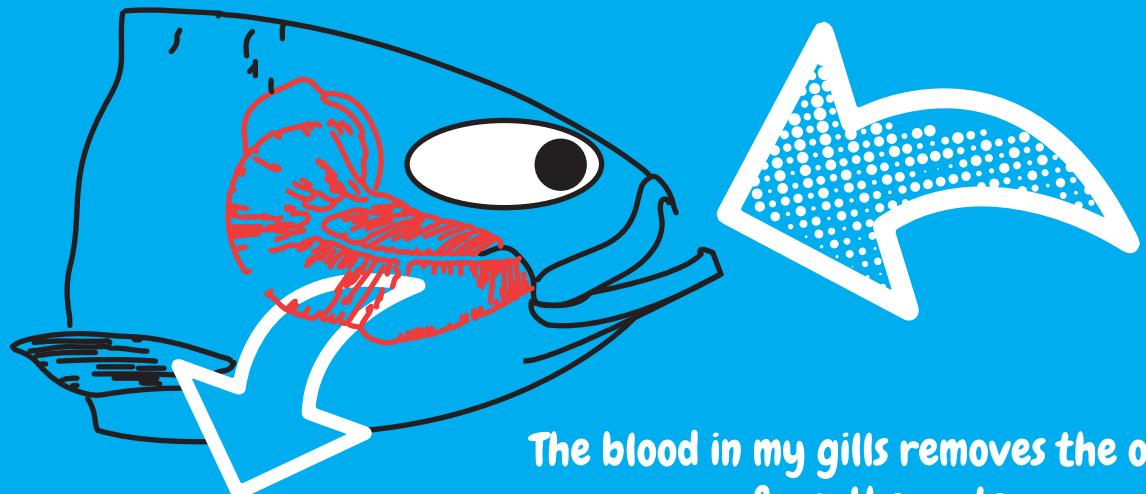


Can you see my gill cover that protects my red gills?



I use my gills to breathe.

When I gulp the water into my mouth it washes over my gills and out under my gill covers.



The blood in my gills removes the oxygen from the water.

I swim in a shoal with my friends.

We like to eat smaller fish with our very sharp teeth.

That's me!

When we are hungry, we will eat almost any little fishes we can find.

Fishermen know this and use their bait and lures to catch us. Because of this, thousands of us are caught by fishermen every year.



To make sure that me and my friends survive into the future there are special laws that protect us. Fishermen should know these laws and obey them.



# QUESTIONS

**A**

- 1) Where does Brad the Shad swim?
- 2) What is Brad's tail fin called?
- 3) What covers Brad's body?
- 4) How does a fish breathe?
- 5) What do fishermen use to catch fish?
- 6) What do we call a group of fish together?


**B**

- 1) There are 36 shad in a shoal and 15 get caught.  
How many are left?
- 2) A fisherman catches 2 fish on Monday, 3 on  
Tuesday, and 1 on Wednesday. How many fish has he  
caught altogether?
- 3) If there are 42 shad in a shoal and 15 swim away,  
how many are left?
- 4) 11 shad, how many eyes?
- 5) 15 shad, how many caudal fins?


**C**

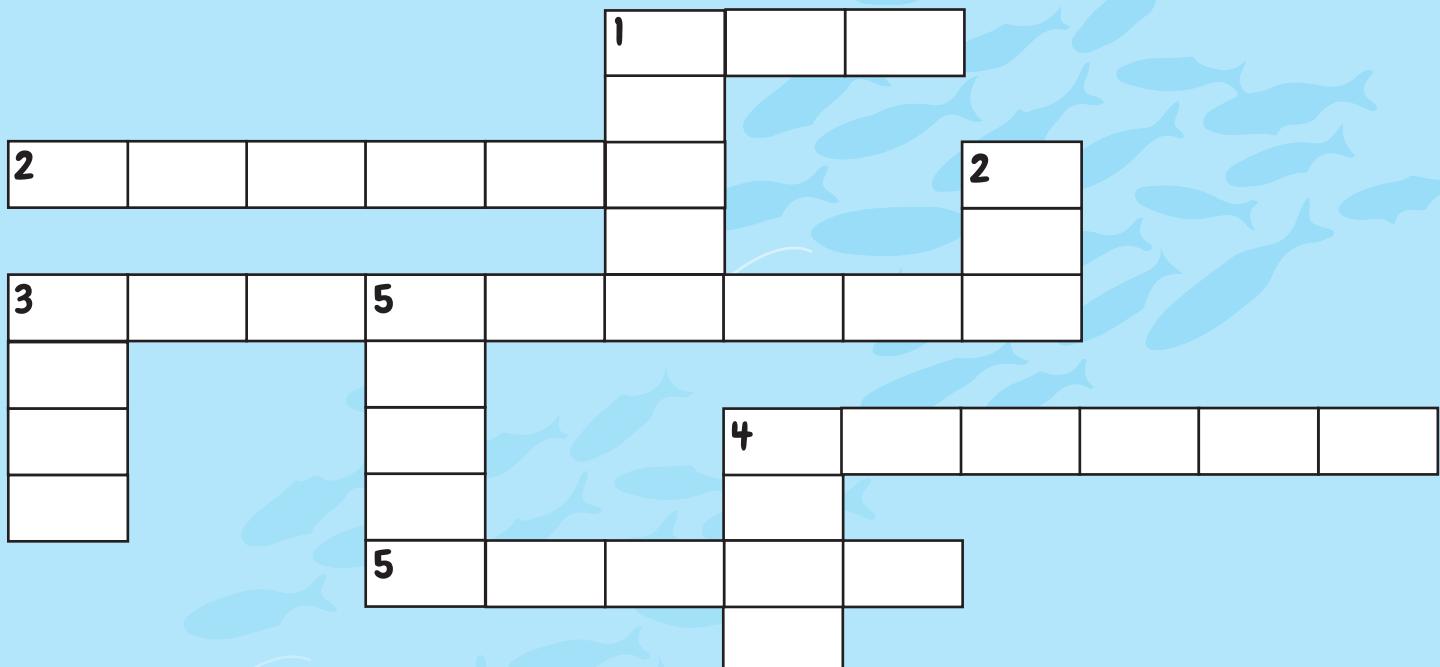
## ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Write these words in alphabetical order.

fish    shad    hooks    bait  
lures    water    gills    caudal fin

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_

# CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

- 1) What is the opposite of lose?
- 2) Brad bit a hook and was \_\_\_\_?
- 3) What do we call a person who fishes?
- 4) What covers Brad's body?
- 5) A group of fish are called a \_\_\_\_?

## DOWN

- 1) Where do fish swim?
- 2) Brad has a caudal \_\_\_\_.
- 3) A shad is a \_\_\_\_.
- 4) Brad is a \_\_\_\_?
- 5) A fisherman puts bait on his \_\_\_\_.

## A POEM by Ursula Bok

**Brad the Shad**  
**So long and so sleek**  
**His scales a shiny silver**  
**His knife sharp teeth and bullet speed make little fishes quiver.**  
**His strong forked tail and big red gills**  
**help him not to get weary**  
**when hunting with mates in huge big shoals**  
**he makes little fishes teary.**



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