

FINDING WORD MEANING Answer Key

Context Clues & Text Features #2

Part 1. Read the passage.

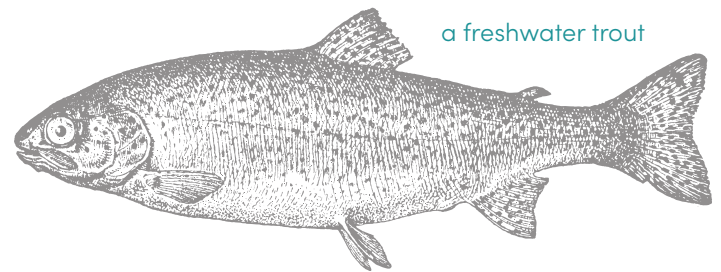
Freshwater fish have bodies that are adapted to live in fresh water. About 40% of all fish live in freshwater habitats. These aquatic homes carry little to no salt. Ponds, lakes, and rivers are all freshwater bodies of water.

The physical structure, or body, of a freshwater fish is very different when compared to its saltwater cousin. The freshwater fish's body allows it to keep salts in its body, since their watery homes only contain about 0.05% salinity (dissolved salt content in water). The gills of a freshwater fish help to maintain healthy salt levels within its body. The kidneys help keep salts from leaving the body, even when a fish excretes (or passes) its waste. And, the scales are also designed to reduce the amount of water that soaks through its skin.

Whether you're learning about a freshwater or saltwater fish, you can be sure this super swimmer has been around for a long time. Fish are one of the oldest animal families to live on Earth!

Questions

1. Select the main idea of this passage.
 - a. Most fish live in freshwater habitats.
 - b. Fish have lived on planet Earth for a long time.
 - c. Freshwater fish have bodies that are adapted to live in fresh water.



Part 2. Reread the passage and underline the words that are listed below.

Glossary

habitat: the place where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives or grows

aquatic: living or found in or near water

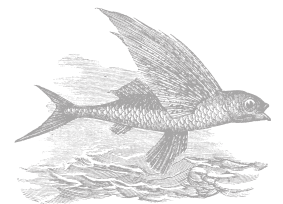
adapt: to change something so that it is easier to live in a particular place or situation

salinity: containing salt

dissolve: to mix with a liquid and become part of the liquid

maintain: to continue without changing.

reduce: to make something smaller in size, amount, or number



2. Based on the main idea, what do you think the phrase "physical structure" means?

Since the main idea is about the bodies of freshwater fish, I think physical structure means an animal's body.

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Directions: Choose a word from the word bank below when completing each sentence. Use context clues to determine which word you should select. For support, refer to the glossary on page 1.

Word Bank

habitat aquatic adapt salinity dissolve maintain reduce

1. Exercising can help people _____ **maintain** _____ a healthy heart rate.
2. The _____ **aquatic** _____ center has five aquariums and a large otter exhibit.
3. Typically, an eagle lives in a _____ **habitat** _____ surrounded by a body of water.
4. When you _____ **dissolve** _____ sugar in warm water, you can no longer see the sugar.
5. People are encouraged to recycle in order to _____ **reduce** _____ the amount of waste that ends up in our landfills.
6. Succulents were able to _____ **adapt** _____ to hot climates by storing water in their thick stems and leaves.
7. The _____ **salinity** _____ of seawater changes as a result of the depth of the water.

