



WILD Kids



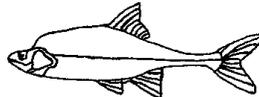
Which Fish Lives Where?

Fish are adapted to living in aquatic (water) environments. They have fins, and breathe through gills. All fish have a backbone, and most have scales. These are adaptations that help fish survive in the habitat where they live. But fish have other adaptations that help them find food and avoid

predators. Arizona's native fish have some special adaptations. (*Native fish are ones that are naturally found in an area.*) Why does the Humpback chub have a "hump"? Where would you find the Mexican stoneroller? To find the answers to these questions, continue reading!

Body Shape

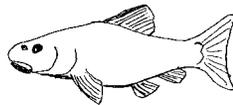
The Humpback chub's **hump** helps it stay upright in fast-moving water.



The Mexican stoneroller is a **flat-bellied** fish that is a bottom feeder.

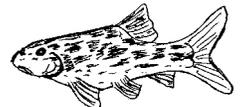


The Apache trout is a fast-moving fish with a **torpedo-shaped body**.

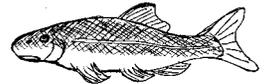


Coloration

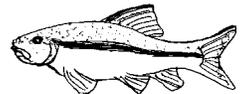
The speckled dace's **mottled color** helps it blend in with rocks.



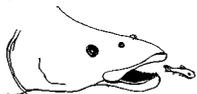
The Little Colorado River sucker's **dark upper side** makes it difficult for predators to see it from above.



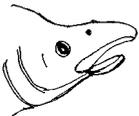
The **horizontal stripe** on the longfin dace helps it hide in vegetation.



Mouth and Feeding



Large jaws allow the Colorado River pikeminnow to eat large fish.

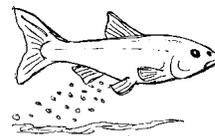


With a **long upper jaw** the bonytail chub feeds on fish below it.

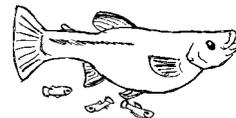


The **sucker-shaped mouth** of the razorback sucker is used to filter out small plants and insects.

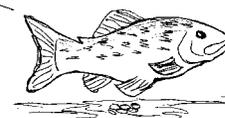
Reproduction



The Spikedace's eggs are **spread out** to increase the number that survive.



The Gila topminnow's **live born young** can swim, just after birth, to escape predators.



The Apache trout's eggs are hidden from predators in a **nest in the gravel**.

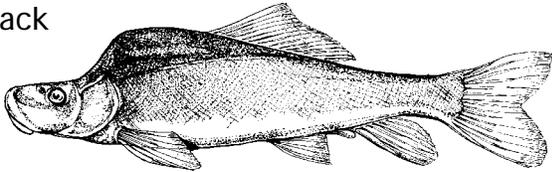
Did you know that nearly half of Arizona's native fish species are endangered or threatened due to habitat loss and introduction of non-native species? Non-native species are ones that are not naturally found in an area, but have been brought in from other places. Non-native species can have a negative effect on Arizona native fish because they eat the eggs and young of the native fish. Which of these species are native to Arizona, and which are non-native: Sonoran sucker, Gila trout, rainbow trout, largemouth bass, mosquito fish, roundtail chub, bluegill, redear sunfish?

Know Your Natives!

Arizona is home to 33 surviving species of native fish. For thousands of years, Arizona's native fish have adapted to life in habitats ranging from small springs to the raging floods of the Colorado River. Their ability to adjust to periods of drought and flash floods has been the key to their survival. But, today

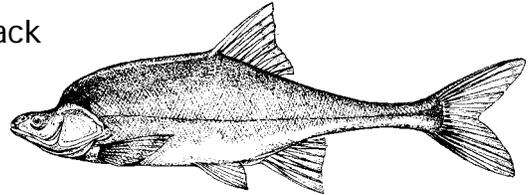
many of our native fish are endangered or threatened due to habitat loss and introduction of non-native fish. Biologists and researchers are working hard to help native fish by reintroducing them, building barriers to control movement of non-native species, and improving habitat for Arizona's native fish.

Razorback
sucker



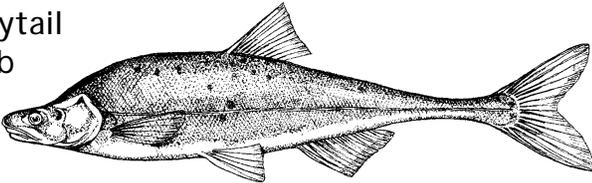
Federally listed as endangered. Back is olive to brown-black, sides brown or pinkish; Belly, white to yellow. Adults have sharp-edged keel or "hump-back". Mouth facing downward. Length; Up to 36 inches; Weight 1 to 13 pounds. Prefers rivers with strong, uniform currents over sandy bottoms. Razorbacks are stocked in the Verde River and there is a small population in Lake Mohave.

Humpback
chub



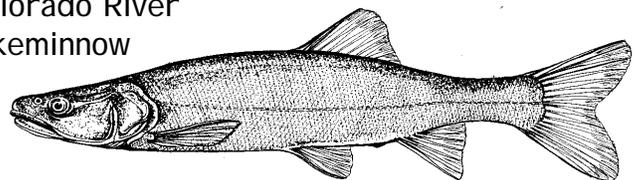
Very rare. Federally listed as Endangered. Body streamlined, light olive-gray above, silver sides, white belly. Small head with snout overhanging mouth. Large hump behind head. The hump forces the fish's body down against the river bottom where currents are less. Length; up to 19 inches. Weight; over 2 pounds. Now found only in the Little Colorado River and adjacent parts of the Colorado River.

Bonytail
chub



Extremely rare. Federally listed as Endangered. Body highly streamlined, greenish to gray above, with irregular black spots, white belly. Head short, concave on top, adults have a small hump. Lengths; up to 24 inches. Weights; over 2 pounds. Historically occurred throughout the Colorado River and its main tributaries. Currently found in Lake Mohave and Lake Havasu and in the Colorado River from Lake Powell upstream to the Green River in Utah. Prefers pools and eddies of warm, swift moving rivers.

Colorado River
pikeminnow



Federally listed as endangered. Formerly known as the Colorado River Squawfish, the body is long and slender, gray-green back with silver sides. Long, conical shaped head, flattened between the eyes. Large, horizontal mouth. Tail fin, large and deeply forked. Length: 1 to 6 feet. Weight: 1 to 100 pounds. Originally found in the Colorado River and Gila River basin, now stocked in the Verde River. Prior to dams, pikeminnows moved upstream in "spawning runs," sometimes up to 100 miles.

Draw an Arizona Native Fish!

Draw one of Arizona's native fish in its habitat. Then write a report about its adaptations.