



WILD Kids



Fishy Facts

Fish are **aquatic** animals. That means they live in water. Some live in freshwater, others live in saltwater. Even though fish come in all different shapes and sizes, they have many things in common.

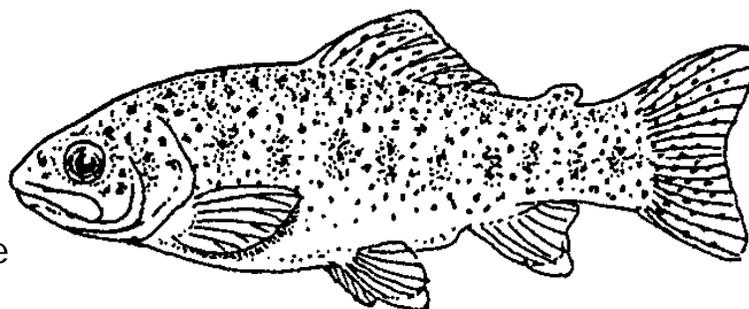
Eyes - many fish have excellent eyesight. They use their eyes to hunt for food and watch for predators.

Ectotherms (cold-blooded) - when fish are in cold water, their body temperature goes down. In warm water it goes up.

A good sense of smell helps fish find food and warn them of danger.

Gills - instead of lungs, fish breathe through gills, located behind the head.

Jaws are used for catching food. Fish eat insects and plants, and some eat other fish.



Fins help fish swim through the water. Like a submarine, they can move forward, backward, up, down and sideways.

Backbone - all fish have a backbone.

Mucous (slime) on a fish's body helps protect it from disease.

Scales protect fish from injury and disease.

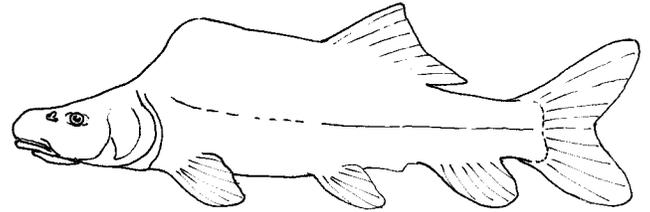
Feature Fish

The fish pictured above is the Apache trout, Arizona's State Fish. The Apache trout grows up to 24 inches long and feeds on insects. It is golden yellow with dark spots.

(Funding for WILD Kids-Native Fish, provided by Bureau of Reclamation.)

The Razorback Sucker

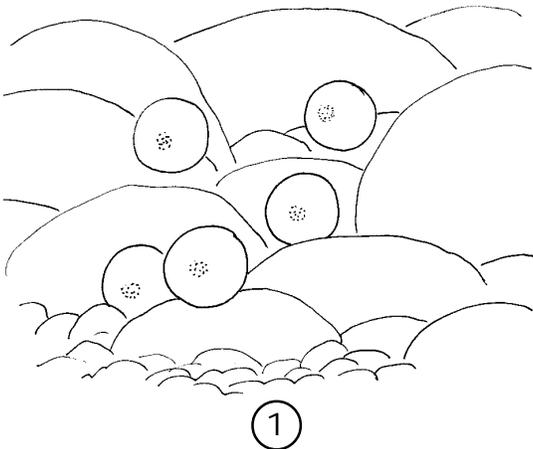
The razorback sucker is named for the sharp keel (hump) on its back.



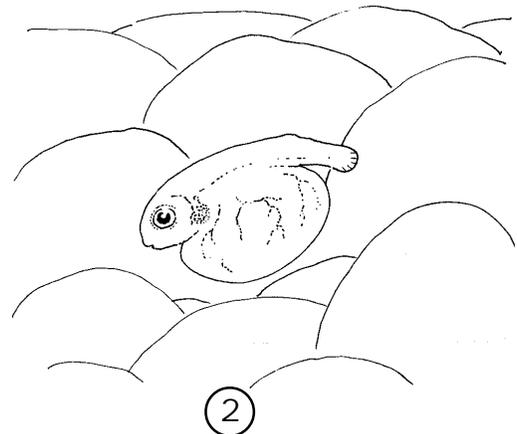
The hump helps the razorback sucker stay on the bottom of a river during floods, so it doesn't get washed away.

Razorbacks feed on plants and insects at the bottom of streams and rivers.

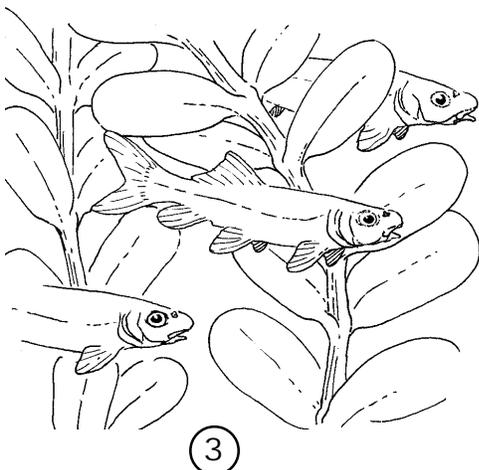
As a razorback sucker grows, it changes. Can you see how it changes?



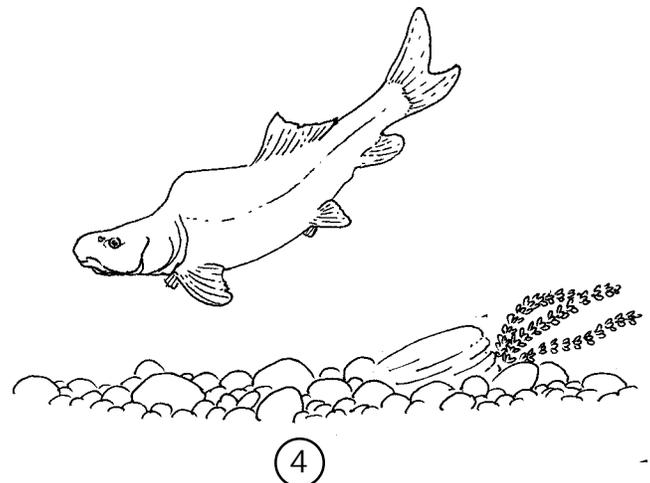
Razorback suckers hatch from eggs that are well hidden in the gravel.



The yolk sac on the newly hatched razorback provides food to grow on, but lasts only a few days.



Young razorbacks hide in the plants as they eat insects and algae (water plants).



The adult razorback sucker can grow to up to three feet long.