Gait of a Fish

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In the previous segment, we acquired knowledge about **The gait of a snake**. In this segment, we will study The gait of a fish.

What is a Fish?

Fish is a vertebrate organism that lives in water and breathes through its gills.

Which different body structures of a fish help in locomotion?

There are three main structures that aid in locomotion: streamlined body, fins, and tail.

(i) Streamlined body

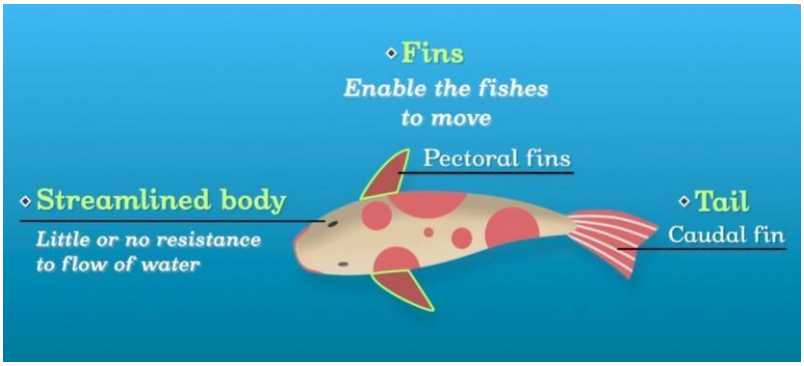
Fish have a streamlined body. It means that the body has **Bulged** in the centre, but **Tapering** at both the ends. This type of body offers little or no resistance to the flow of water allowing easy movement in the water.

(ii) Fins

Fins are the small limb-like structure on the body of the fish that enables it to move. Fins that are present laterally (on the sides) are called **Pectoral Fins**.

(iii) Tail

The tail helps in the locomotion of fish by displacing the water allowing fish to move forward. The fins that are attached to the **Tail** of the fish are called **Caudal Fins**.



The body structure of a fish

How do fish locomote?

- The fish usually possess **Pectoral Fins**. When swimming, they propel the water behind and generate a force which in turn moves the fish forward.
- The **Caudal Fins** participate in the locomotion by **Propulsion**.
- The muscles of the **Anterior** end of the body get stretched and curve the body in one direction. At this time, the tail at the **Posterior** end curves on the other side. This creates a jerk while pushing the body forward. A series of jerks together help the fish to swim.

Summary

Fish	It is an aquatic vertebrate organism.
Different Body structures of Fish	There are three main structures that aid in locomotion - Streamlined body - Fins - Tail
Locomotion in Fish	The fish moves forward with the help of the tail and fins.

What's next?

In the next segment of Class 6 Science, we will learn about **The gait of a bird.**