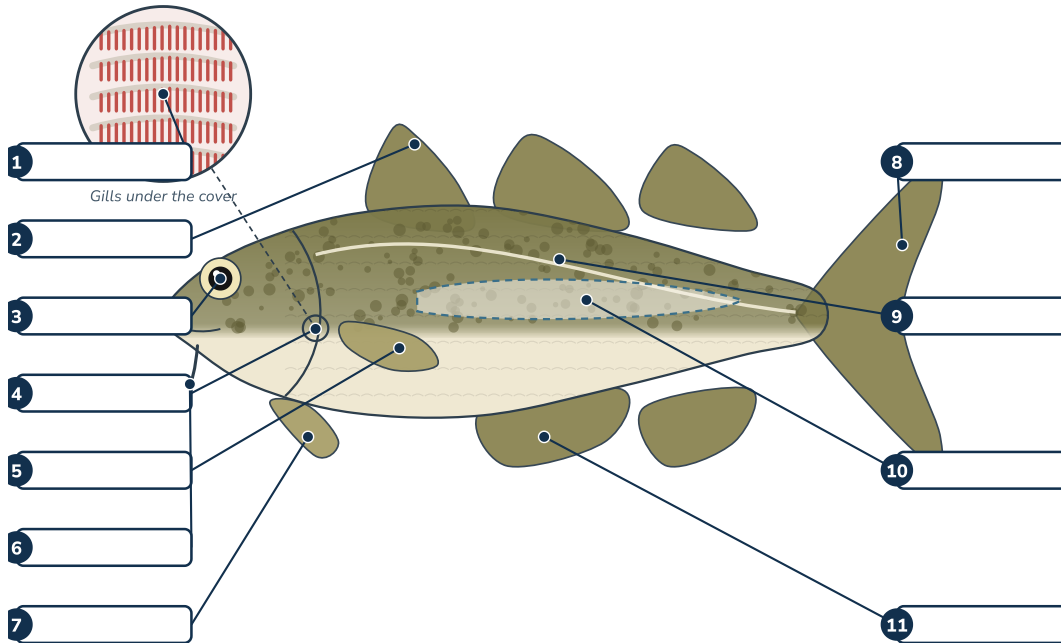


Atlantic Cod

Gadus morhua

Look at the diagram. Write the correct name from the word bank in each numbered box.

anal fins | chin barbel | dorsal fins | eye | gill cover | gills | lateral line | pectoral fin | pelvic fin | swim bladder | tail fin



An Atlantic cod, with the swim bladder shown inside. Close-up: gill arches and filaments under the gill cover.

Did you know?

- Cod is a **bony fish**, with a skeleton of bone and a gill cover.
- A large female can lay **several million eggs** in a season.
- Cod can live for over **20 years** and grow to over 1.5 m.
- The chin barbel **tastes** food on the sea floor.
- The Grand Banks cod fishery **collapsed in 1992** from overfishing.

About the Atlantic Cod

The Atlantic cod lives in the cold North Atlantic, from the coasts of North America to the North Sea and the Barents Sea. It usually swims near the sea floor, often in groups called **shoals**.

Cod eat sand eels, herring, crabs and worms. Young cod are eaten by seals, seabirds and bigger fish.

Like other bony fish, cod breathe with **gills** protected by a gill cover, float using a gas-filled **swim bladder**, and sense movement in the water with the **lateral line**.

Overfishing caught cod faster than they could breed, causing populations to crash.

Bony vs cartilaginous

	Cod (bony)	Shark (cartilage)
Skeleton	Bone	Cartilage
Gills	Gill cover	5 to 7 slits
Floating	Swim bladder	Oily liver
Skin	Scales	Denticles

Functions of Each Part	
Part	Function
Gills	
Gill cover	
Swim bladder	
Lateral line	
Chin barbel	
Dorsal fins	
Tail fin	

Hint: use the diagram, the About box and the Did you know? panel to fill in the Function column.

Answer the Questions

- Is the cod a bony or a cartilaginous fish? Give two pieces of evidence.

- Describe how a cod gets oxygen from the water.

- What is the job of the swim bladder?

- How does the lateral line help cod swim in shoals?

- Why do you think a cod has a barbel on its chin?

- Stretch: explain why the Grand Banks cod collapsed in 1992 and why it has been slow to recover.
