

Dining Out With Fishes of the Hudson

Many different kinds of fish live in the Hudson. They come in all shapes and sizes, and have a variety of **adaptations** for survival. A fish's mouth, for example, tells us a lot about its lifestyle. Some fish have **specialized** mouths and are picky eaters. Others eat almost any **prey** that fits in their mouths.

Look at each picture the next page. How big is the fish's mouth? Does it point straight ahead or down towards the bottom? How big is each fish? (The numbers give average lengths of adults), Then from the selection below, choose the preferred food(s) of each fish and write its letter(s) next to each fish.



lined seahorse - 5"

Examples: The lined seahorse's snout is a tube that ends in a tiny mouth. Using it like a medicine dropper, this small fish sucks in tiny **invertebrates** that drift or swim nearby—food items listed in Group **D**.

The pumpkinseed sunfish has a small, rather ordinary (for a fish) mouth. Not having a specialized mouth, it eats a variety of animals in Groups **B** and **C**.



pumpkinseed - 6"

A. Frogs, fish, big crustaceans



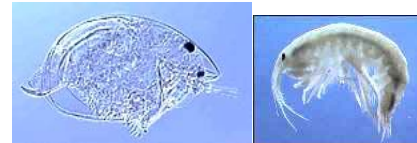
B. Small creatures on river bottom: insect larvae, crustaceans, worms



C. Tiny fish, crustaceans, insects



D. Tiny invertebrates, zooplankton



Write the letter of each fish's preferred food group (or groups) on the line



1. *walleye* - 20"
Sharp teeth hold slippery prey in this big mouth.



2. *shortnose sturgeon* - 36"
Its mouth points down. **Barbels** (whiskers) allow it to find food by feel and taste where there is little or no light.



3. *Atlantic needlefish* - 18" These sharp teeth can hold slippery prey. _____



4. *northern pipefish* - 10"
It has a tiny mouth at the tip of a tube-like snout.

5. *white sucker* - 14"
Its mouth points down.



6. *largemouth bass* - 15" Its name says it all! _____



7. *white perch* - 9"
Its mouth is small and not specialized.

