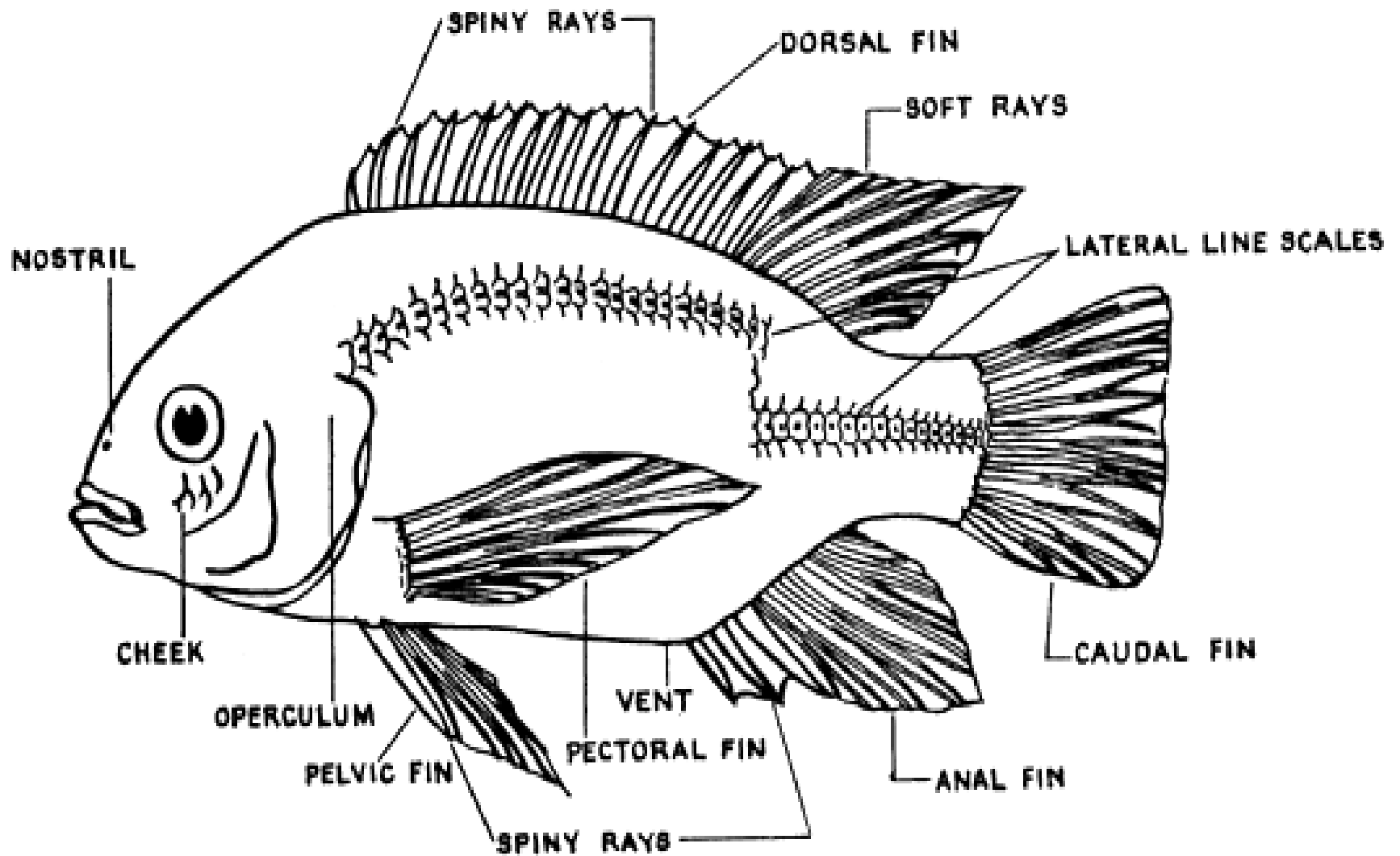


# THE EXTERNAL FEATURES

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# OF A FISH AND THEIR FUNCTIONS



# Nostrils and Eyes

- The nostrils of a fish do not open into the back of the mouth, so they are not used for breathing. They lead into organs of smell which are very sensitive. A fish can thus detect food at considerable distances.
- The eyes of a fish have large round pupils which do not vary in size.

# Ear and Mouth

- Hearing: a fish have no external ears but they can hear by the transmission of vibrations through their bodies to the inner ear.
- The mouth serve to take in food and water for breathing.

# Scale, Gills and Lateral line

- The scales overlap each other and serve as protective covering.
- The gills are used for breathing. The walls of their filaments are very thin. This enable the oxygen in the water to be absorbed rapidly into the blood.
- The lateral line is a fluid tube just below the skin. Its function is to detect movements in the water. With aid of the lateral line a fish can detect the direction and intensity of water movement.

# The fins

- The fins give stability and control direction of movement during swimming. By means of its fins a fish can control the movements of its body. The fins also enable a fish to control its speed.

# Questions

- 1) A fish breathes with its nostrils
- 2) The nostrils are connected to the back of the mouth.
- 3) A fish is capable of smelling food at a consideration distance.
- 4) The pupil of a fish's eyes has not the capacity to change size.
- 5) One function of the mouth is to take in the air for breathing.
- 6) The mouth is also used for taking in food.