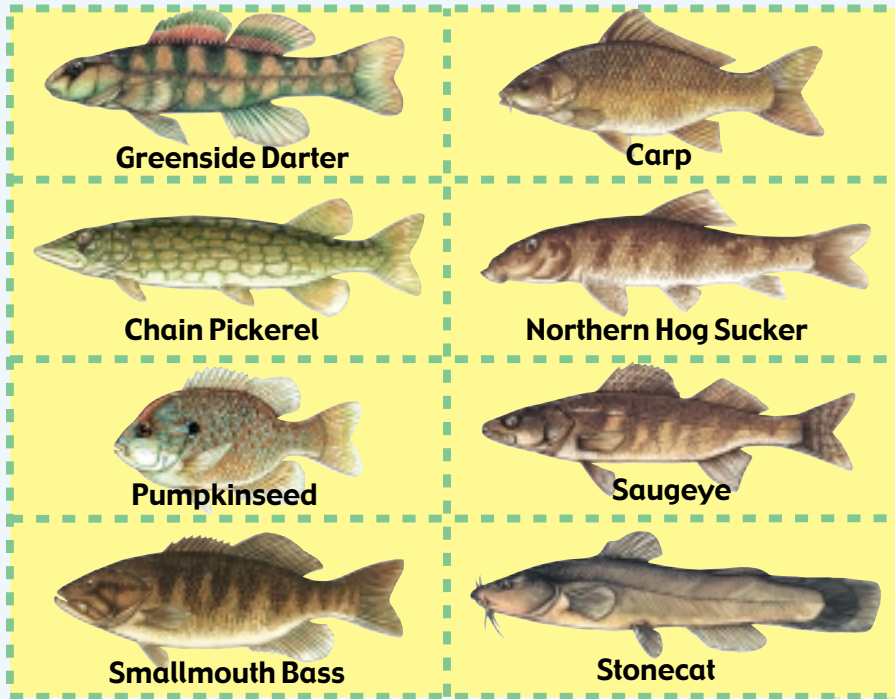


Pennsylvania

Fish are just as different from one another as we are different from other mammals. There are three different types, or classes, of fish. Cartilaginous fish (Chondrichthyes) have skeletons of cartilage and include the sharks, rays and skates that live in the ocean. Jawless fishes (Agnatha) also have skeletons of cartilage, but they lack jaws. Bony fishes (Osteichthyes) have skeletons of bone. Scientists place different groups of fish in these classes into "orders"



Family: Catostomidae (suckers)



Family: Cyprinidae (minnows)



Family: Lepisosteidae (gars)



Family: Polyodontidae (paddlefish)

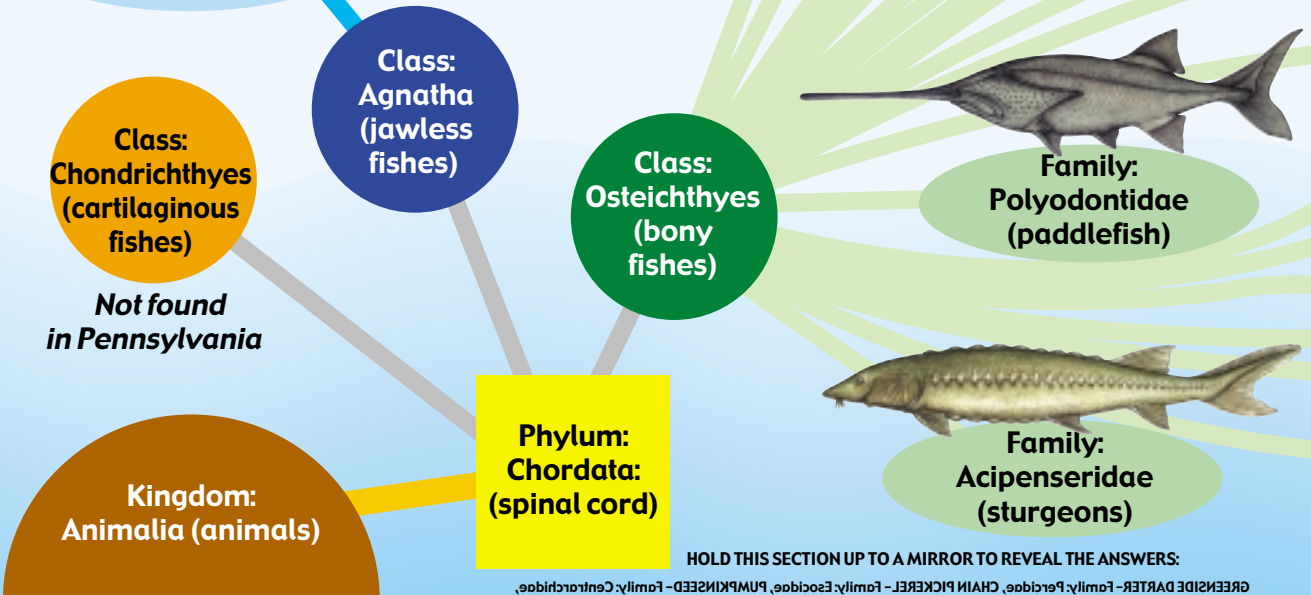


Family: Acipenseridae (sturgeons)



Family: Petromyzontidae (lampreys)

Which families do the fish above belong to?



HOLD THIS SECTION UP TO A MIRROR TO REVEAL THE ANSWERS:

GREENSIDEDARTER - Family: Percidae, CHAIN PICKEREL - Family: Esocidae, PUMPKINSEED - Family: Centrarchidae, SMALLMOUTH BASS - Family: Centrarchidae, CARP - Family: Cyprinidae, NORTHERN HOG SUCKER - Family: Catostomidae, SAUGEYE - Family: Percidae, STONECAT - Family: Ictaluridae

Fish Family Tree

and then into “families.” The easiest grouping of fish to learn is the fish family. That’s because members of a fish family share very similar features or life cycles.

There are over 400 fish families throughout the world. Pennsylvania has more than 20 families. Some fish in these families are common. Others are rare. Some are just plain weird-looking. For now, here is a “big picture” look at those families you might encounter while fishing in Pennsylvania:

