



ALL ABOUT ASIAN CARPS

'Asian carps' are a group of fish species that are invasive in North America. This means that they are not from here, and they can cause damage to the environment. They can also harm our native fish species, which are fish that support our local wildlife. There are four types of Asian carps: Grass Carp, Black Carp, Bighead Carp and Silver Carp. None of these Asian carps are established yet in Canadian waters, and we are working hard to keep them out. The biggest threat to our Great Lakes right now are Grass Carp!

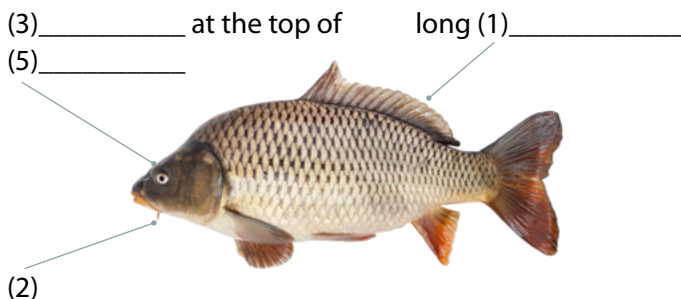
Activity 1: Identification

In order to spot Grass Carp if they enter Canada, we need to be able to tell the difference between them and other fish species that have already been living in Canadian waters for a long time. One fish similar to the Grass Carp is the Common Carp. While Common Carp is invasive, it is already established and therefore unlike Grass Carp it does not need to be reported. Let's learn some fish anatomy and label the differences between these two fish! Unscramble the following names of fish body parts, using the description of each body part as a clue.

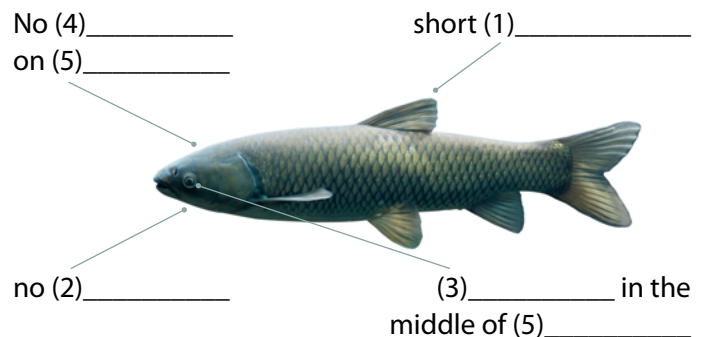
1. **osdalr ifn** = _____: A body part that sticks up, out of the back of most fish, sharks, and whales.
2. **rbabsel** = _____: Similar to whiskers! Grow from the mouth of some fish; used to detect food in cloudy water.
3. **syee** = _____: Set of two organs that fish use to see.
4. **escsal** = _____: Small, overlapping, bony plates that protect a fish's skin.
5. **eahd** = _____: The front body part of an animal; contains the brain.

Matching the number of each body part to the numbers in the diagrams, label each fish to learn the differences between Common Carp and Grass Carp.

COMMON CARP

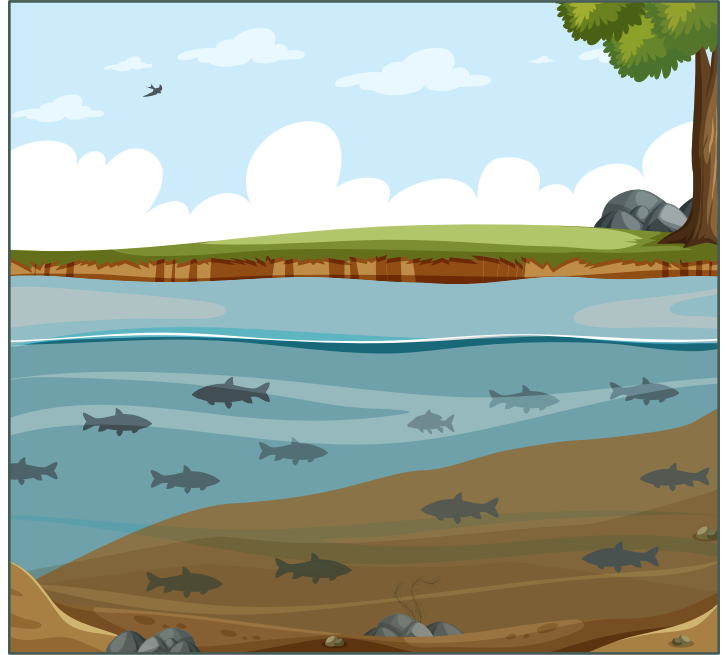


GRASS CARP



Activity 2: Spot the Difference!

If Asian carps start living in Canadian waters, they could greatly damage the health of our local environment. The images below show a healthy environment and an environment after Asian carps have become established. Try to spot the differences between the two.



The introduction of Asian carps can affect many different factors of a healthy environment. Write a few words describing how Asian carps have changed the following components of this environment, and whether that change has been good or bad.

Plants: _____

Fish: _____

Birds: _____

Water quality: _____

Biodiversity: _____

Environment health: _____
