

Perch Dissection

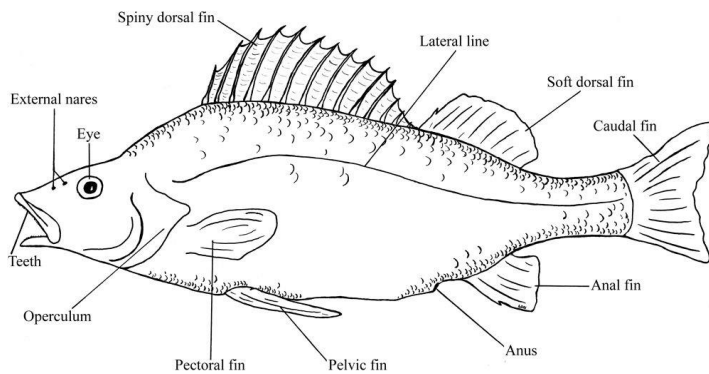
The yellow perch is a freshwater member of the group Osteichthyes, or bony fishes. These preserved specimens are used to study typical fish anatomy in middle school classrooms to college vertebrate anatomy labs. Perch dissection requires minimal skill, few tools, and typically takes 1–2 class periods, depending on your preference.

Below is a brief survey of the internal and external anatomy of the perch

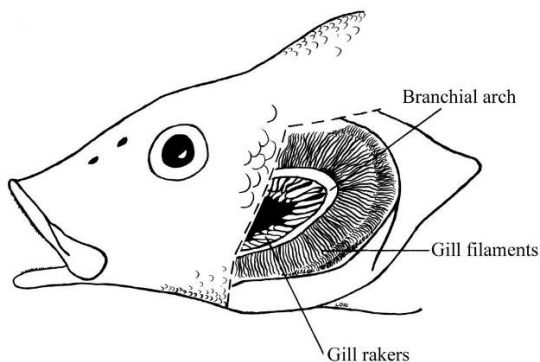
Perch External Anatomy

Lay the preserved perch on its side in the dissecting tray.

1. identify the parts of the external anatomy.

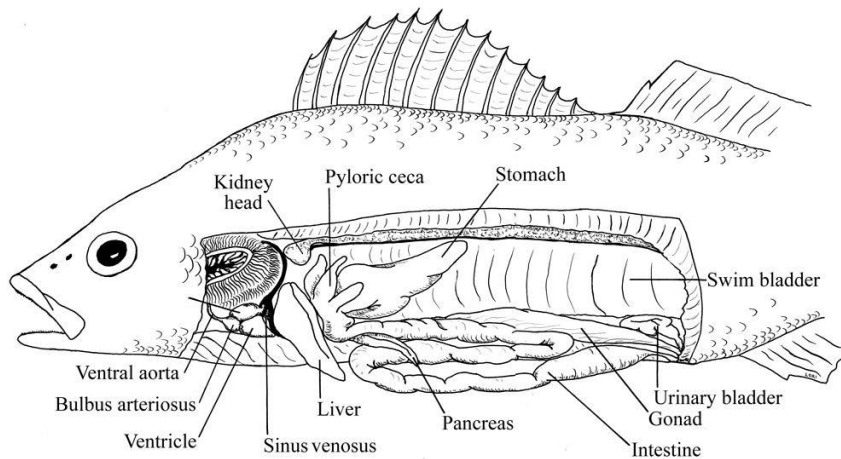
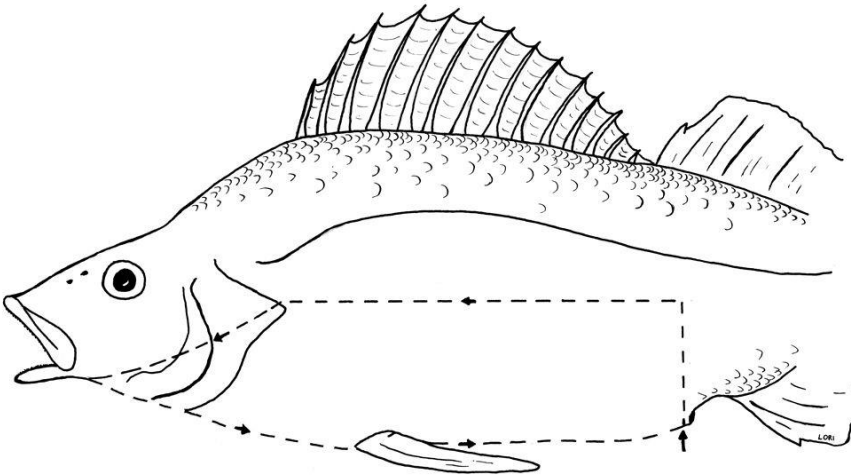


2. Remove the skin from one side of the perch. With dissecting scissors and a blunt probe, separate the thin skin from the underlying muscle beginning just posterior to the head to the posterior edge of the anal fin.
3. Examine the perch's muscles that occur in W-shaped blocks. Each block is called a **myomere**.
4. Expose the **gills** by lifting and removing the **operculum**.



5. Locate the following structures of the gills: the **branchial arch**, **gill rakers**, and **gill filaments**.

Perch Internal Anatomy



1. If you have a female fish, the **ovary** may be enlarged with eggs. If so, remove the ovary to clearly see the other abdominal organs. It may also be necessary to do some extra trimming to see the **kidney head**, the **urinary bladder**, and the **swim bladder**. The **kidney** runs dorsal from the kidney head to the swim bladder as a thin bit of dark tissue. **Fat** will often be found in the membranes attached to the **intestines**.