

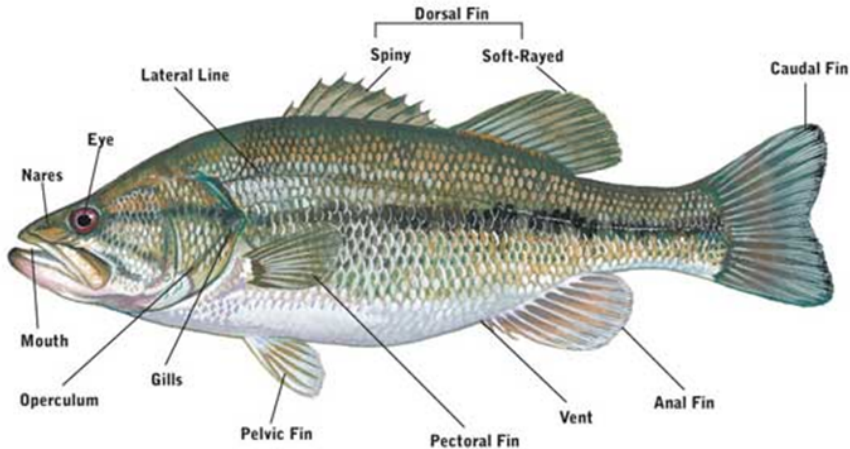


# Big Gulp Guppy

UConn 4-H New London County

## Background

Fish have an important role in natural ecosystems and in the diets of people all around the world. Although different species of fish can look very unique, they all share similar characteristics: gills to breathe underwater, fins, and a backbone.



*Fish External Anatomy.* Source: [South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources](https://www.southcarolina.gov/depar/nr/)

The way that a fish species looks is often dependent on its environment and its place in the food chain. Fish that live in tropical places, for example, may be brightly colored to warn predators that they are poisonous to eat. On the other hand, a freshwater fish (pictured above) that lives in a lake may be brown and green to blend in with the leaves and mud at the bottom. Predatory fish (fish that eat other fish) are often strong swimmers with impressive teeth. **Think about other types of fish you know, or research some. How do the exterior features of the fish (color, body shape, special body parts) fit its environment?**



*A blue tang fish, poisonous to those who eat it.  
Source: Pixabay*



*An eel with sharp teeth. Eels are ray-finned fish.  
Source: P. Ingelrest*

You can create a paper replica of a fish using the steps below. For more information, visit the [Kids' Corner: Fish & Life Cycles](#) from the US Forest Service.

## Supplies and Tools

**1.5 sheets of colored paper (2 distinct colors)**

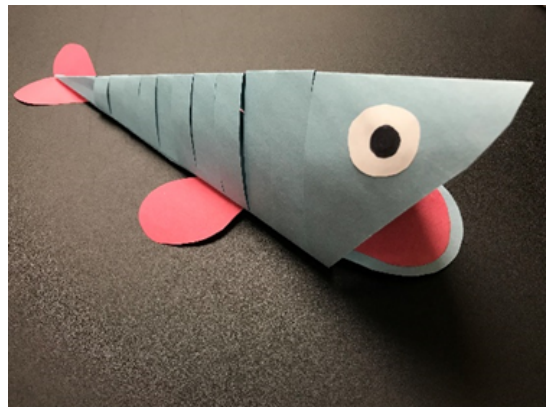
**1 small piece of white paper**

**Scissors**

**Glue**

**Marker**

**Pencil**

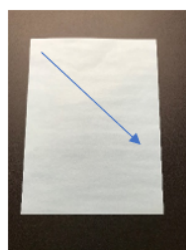


## Activity Steps

### Notes

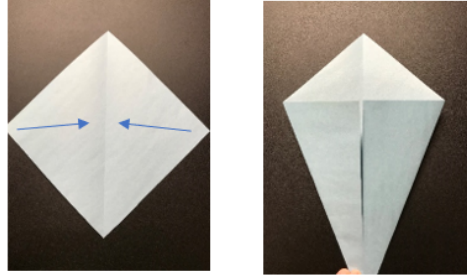
1. Make a square out of Color #1 (full sheet): fold the top corner down to the opposite side. Line up both sides and fold. Cut the remaining paper off and unfold.

### Visuals



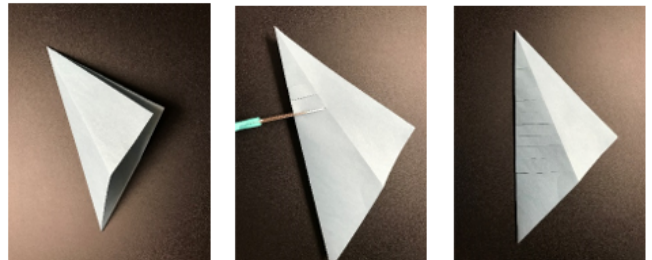
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2. Hold the square so that the creased line runs top to bottom. Take the left corner and fold towards the creased line in the middle of the paper. Repeat with the right corner. Unfold.



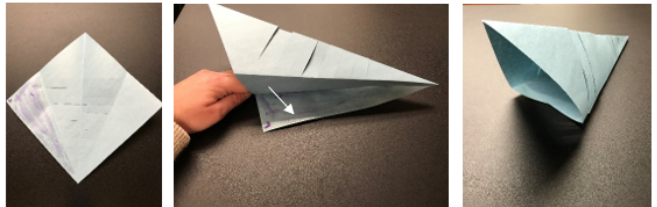
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3. Fold on the original diagonal. Using your scissors, make cuts on the folded side up to the creased lines, starting 1 inch from the side where the creases meet and stopping 1 inch before the creases end on the opposite side (around **4 inches** on this side should be left **uncut** – this will be the head of the fish). Cuts should be spaced about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch apart. Unfold.



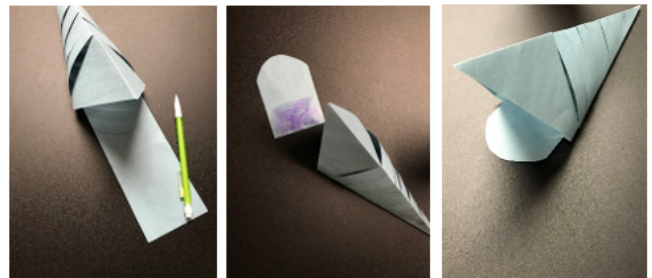
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4. On the inside of the outermost left triangle, apply a layer of glue. Stick the exterior side of the outermost right triangle to the glue on the left triangle. This is the body of your fish; the cut side is the top, and the triangles you just glued are the bottom.



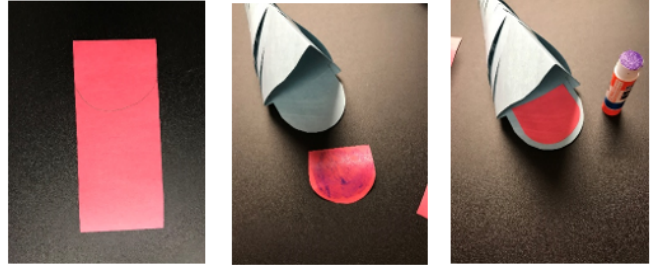
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5. **Making the mouth:** Take the leftover paper from step 1 and cut a half circle the same width as fish's body. Glue in the opening of the mouth. Cut the tip off the top of the fish's mouth to match.



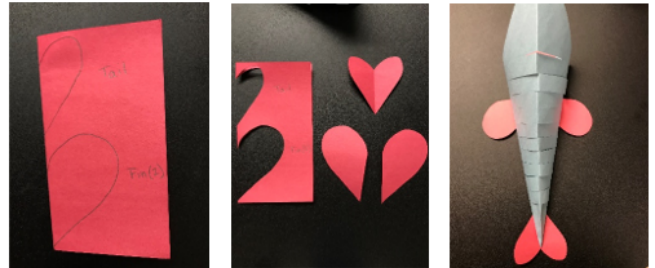
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6. Cut a smaller half circle from Color #2. Glue on top of Color #1 in the mouth.

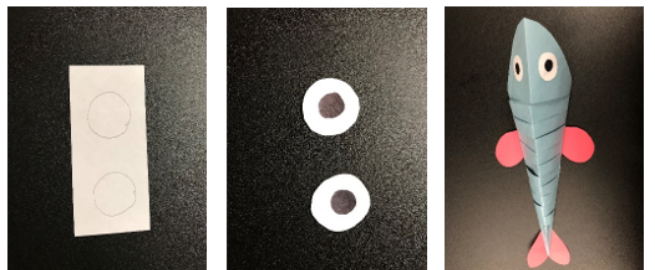


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7. **Adding the tail:** Cut a heart shape from Color #2. (In the pictures below, Color #2 is folded in half and the cuts are made on the folded side.) Apply glue to the pointy end of the heart and stick underneath the narrow end of the fish.



8. **Adding the fins:** Cut a larger heart shape from Color #2. Cut in half to make two fins. Glue a small portion of each fin under the body behind the mouth.



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9. **Adding the eyes:** Cut two circles from the white paper. Using your marker, color in a circle on each eyeball. Attach one on each side of the head of the fish.

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