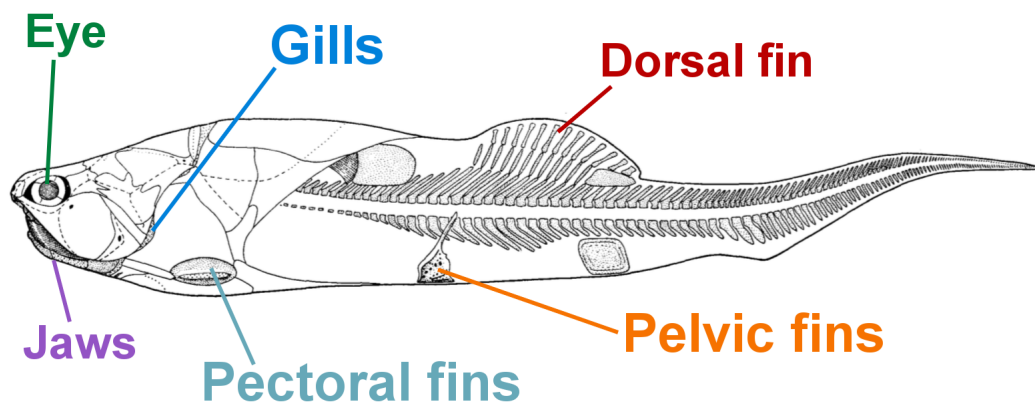


Coccosteus

Coh-coss-tee-uss

Coccosteus is a **placoderm** - one of a now extinct group of fishes that were the earliest relatives of living fishes. It is from the Devonian -between 420 and 360 million years ago - of Scotland. Like other placoderms *Coccosteus* has a suit of **armoured plates** covering its head and neck. Some of these plates lined the mouth instead of teeth, with **sharp edges** for shearing through prey.



Fossil facts

- While *Coccosteus* itself wasn't all that big, some of its relatives could grow to enormous sizes. One, *Dunkleosteus*, was up to 6 metres long!
- One of the most obvious parts of our *Coccosteus* is its backbone. This tells us that it is a vertebrate.