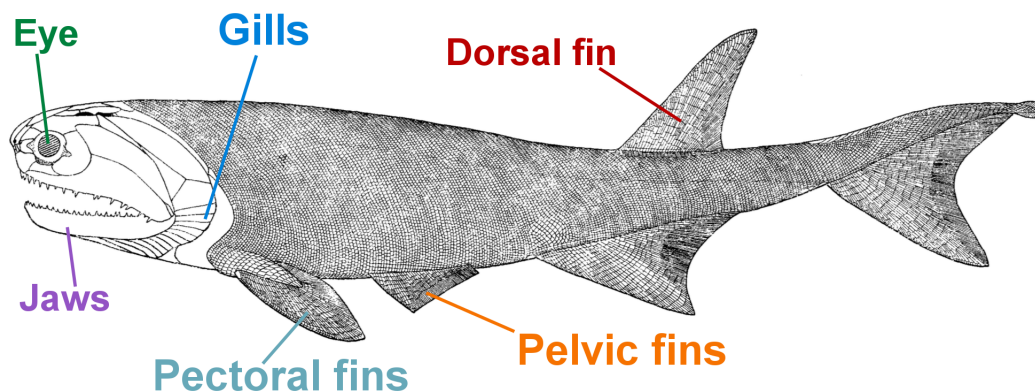


# *Cheirolepis*

Kye-row-leep-iss

Cheirolepis is one of the **earliest relatives of the living ray-finned fishes**; this is the group that includes almost all living fishes - trout, tuna, goldfishes etc. Like the rest of our fossils, it is from the Devonian - between 420 and 360 million years ago - of Scotland. *Cheiracanthus* had a mouthful of **sharp teeth** and would have been a predator in the Devonian waters. It could have used its large, powerful fins to chase smaller fishy prey.



## Fossil facts

- If you look at the scales of *Cheirolepis* you'll see they're very small - they're actually more similar to the scales of sharks and acanthodians than to the larger scales of other bony fishes like *Osteolepis* and *Dipterus*.