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| **Class** | Main Characteristics | Examples | Approximate # of species |
| **Agnatha** | * lack jaws and paired fins * cartilaginous skeleton | Lamprey, hag fish | 10 species |
| **Chondrichthyes** | * have jaws * cartilaginous skeleton * paired fins | Sharks, skates, rays, sawfish | 600 species |
| **Osteichthyes** | * have jaws * bony skeleton * paired fins | Most familiar fish ie perch, tuna, catfish | 20,000 species |
| **Amphibia** | * moist, glandular skin * lack scales and claws * larvae are aquatic * eggs without shells | frogs, toads, salamanders | 2,000 species |
| **Reptilia** | * dry, scaly skin * breathe by lungs * leathery shelled eggs | snakes, turtles, lizards, crocodiles | 5,000 species |
| **Aves** | * feathers * wings * warm blooded * hard shelled eggs | birds | 9,000 species |
| **Mammalia** | * hair on part or all of body * warm-blooded * mammary glands to produce milk | humans, rodents, whales, bats | 4,500 species |