Our Ocean, Our Fish!

The Butterflyfish Family

Ages 6-11

Let's explore the amazing world beneath the waves!

All Creatures are Grouped as Families

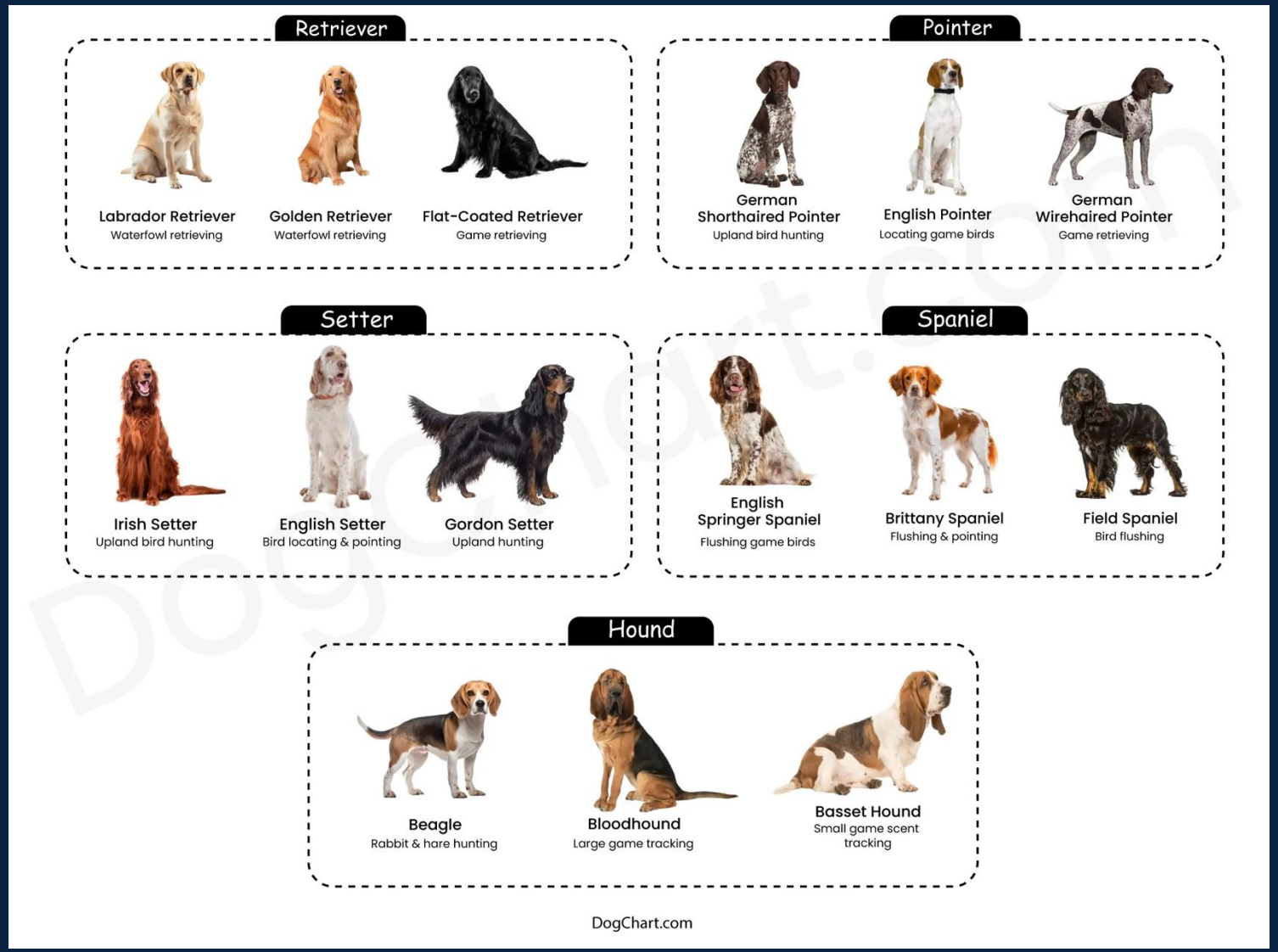
Dog Grouping by Behavior

Some Dog Characteristics: Head and Body Shape, Size, Hair, Behavior, Genes

Group Type	Description	Example Breeds
Sporting	Hunting and Retrieval	Labrador Retrievers
Working	Guarding and Pulling	St. Bernard, Alaskan Malemute
Herding	Livestock Management	Sheep Dogs
Hound	Tracking and Scenting	Blood Hound
Terrier	Vermin Control (mice, etc.)	Jack Terrier
Toy	Companionship	Chihuahua
Non-Sporting	Miscellaneous Roles	Poodle

American Kennel Club Dog Grouping

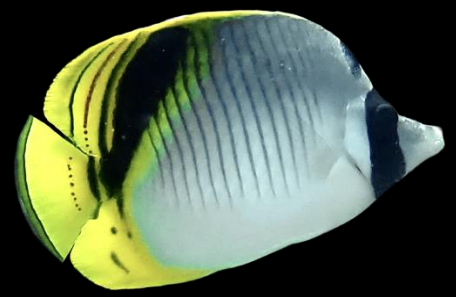
Example: Hunting Dogs



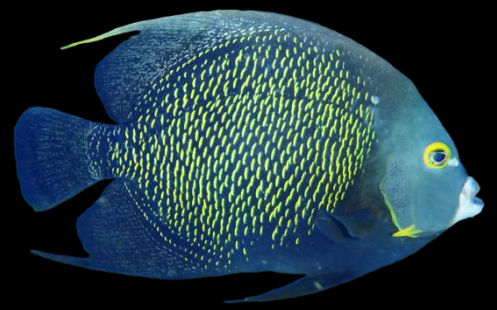
- Image Courtesy of: https://dogchart.com/hunting-dog-breeds.html

A Few Fish Groups

Some Fish Characteristics: Size, Color, Shape, Behavior, Genetics



Butterflyfish (Spot-nape)
Flat & Oval
with bold patterns



Angelfish (French)
Large Flat Oval Body
Back Narrow Fin – Top & Bottom



Barracuda (Great)
Long, sleek
& super fast!



Triggerfish (Titan)
Football Shaped
Prominent Lower, Spine and Face Fins and Tail



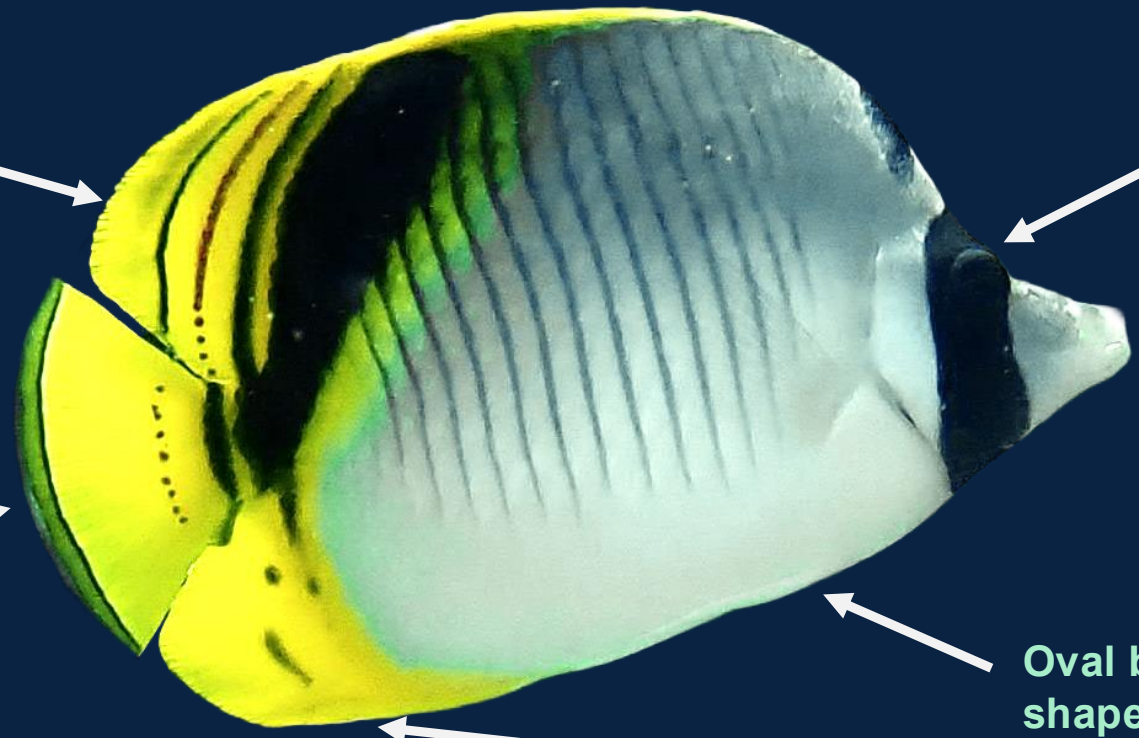
Wrasse (Yellow Head)
Head Narrows Down to Tail
Narrow Fins



Puffer (Blackspotted)
Round & puffy
Color varies, Prominent Fins

The Butterflyfish

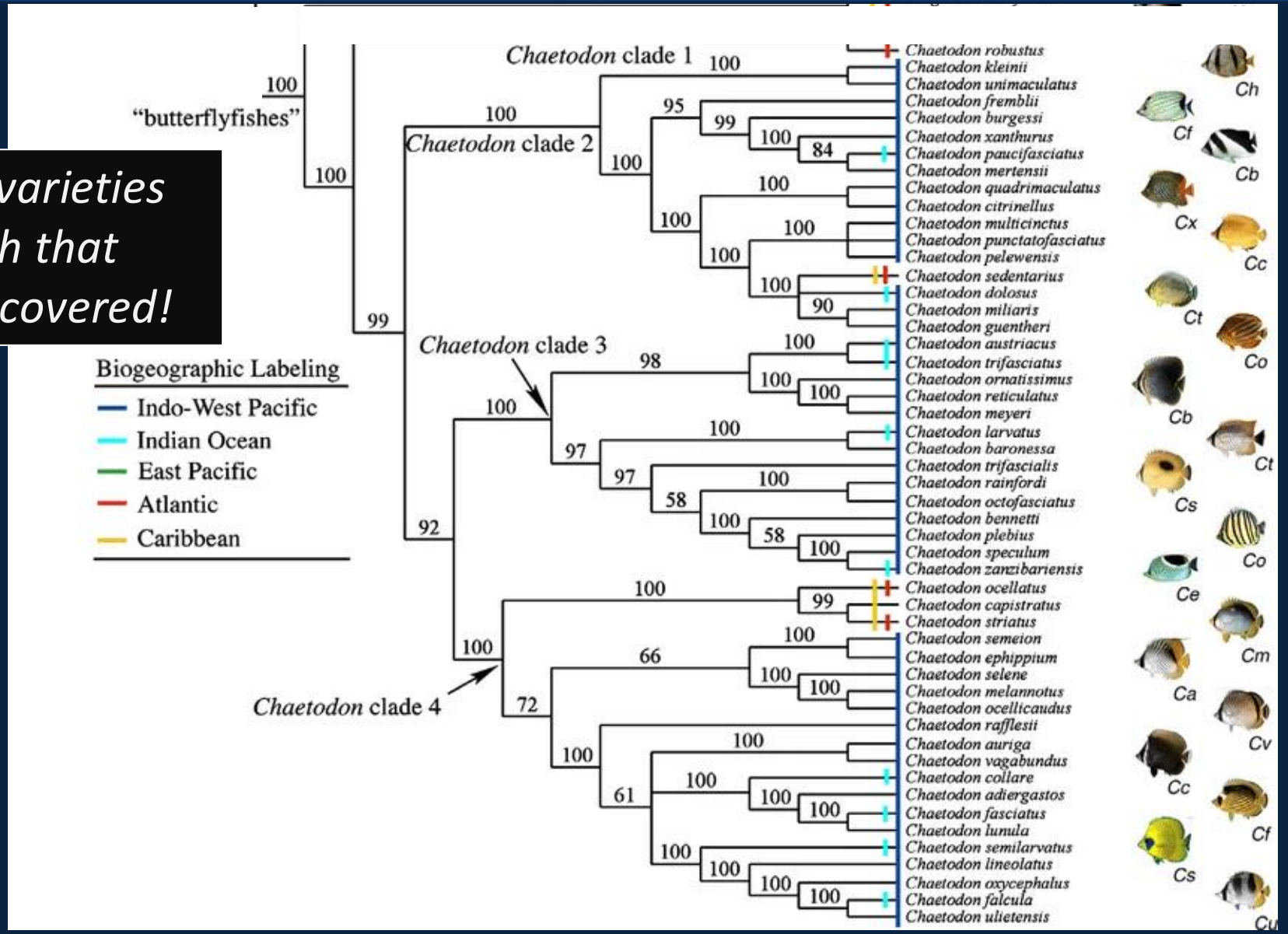
Butterflyfish Characteristics



While Colors and patterns change, body shapes are similar!
Scientists have named 50+ varieties of butterflyfish and 117+ fish within its larger related family

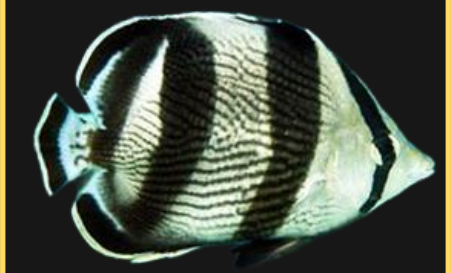
Butterfly Fish Family (Chaetodon)

A chart of 50 varieties of Butterflyfish that have been discovered!



*Molecular phylogenetics of the butterflyfishes (Chaetodontidae): Taxonomy and biogeography of a global coral reef fish family, Fessler and Westneat 2007

5 Butterflyfish Variations (Chaetodon)



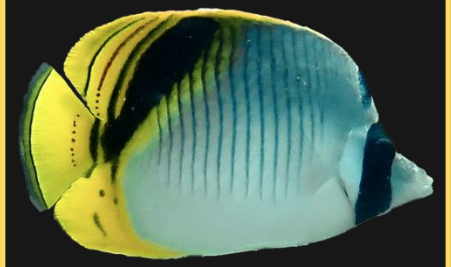
Banded

C. striatus



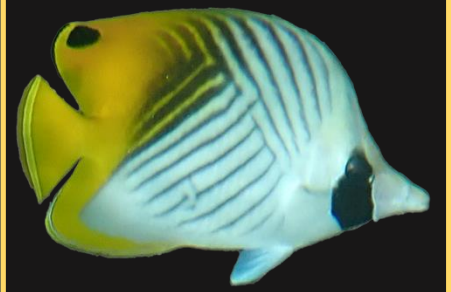
Raccoon

C. lunula



Spot-Nape

C. oxycephalus



Threadfin

C. Auriga



Foureye

C. capistratus

Research your Fish!

Pick a Butterflyfish to study. Here are some starting ideas.

- How was it discovered and named?
- Where do they live in the reef?
- What ocean is home to this fish?
- How do their babies change as they grow?
- How does it sleep?
- Any special behaviors?

... anything you discover!

Present to the Class!

Create a presentation for sharing what you learned about this fish. Be ready to answer questions from the class.

Example: Racoon Butterflyfish

Questions are up to you, change if you wish!

Presentation Sample



Find multiple Pictures!

How was it discovered and named?

What ocean is home to this fish?

What do they eat?

Describe the coloration and patterns.

How Long do they live? What is their life cycle?

Share a unique quality?