Hi! I’m Brad the Shad.

I swim in the sea along the South African coast.

I have a long body with a forked tail.

My body is covered in small scales.

My tail fin helps me to swim fast.

I have seven fins.

1. Dorsal fin (1)
2. Pectoral fin (2)
3. Caudal (tail) fin (1)
4. Anal fin (1)
5. Pelvic fin (2)

Can you see my gill cover that protects my red gills?
I use my gills to breathe. When I gulp the water into my mouth it washes over my gills and out under my gill covers.

The blood in my gills removes the oxygen from the water.

I swim in a shoal with my friends. We like to eat smaller fish with our very sharp teeth.

When we are hungry, we will eat almost any little fishes we can find.

Fishermen know this and use their bait and lures to catch us. Because of this, thousands of us are caught by fishermen every year.

To make sure that me and my friends survive into the future there are special laws that protect us. Fishermen should know these laws and obey them.
A
1) Where does Brad the Shad swim?  
2) What is Brad's tail fin called?  
3) What covers Brad's body?  
4) How does a fish breathe?  
5) What do fishermen use to catch fish?  
6) What do we call a group of fish together?

B
1) There are 36 shad in a shoal and 15 get caught. How many are left?
2) A fisherman catches 2 fish on Monday, 3 on Tuesday, and 1 on Wednesday. How many fish has he caught altogether?
3) If there are 42 shad in a shoal and 15 swim away, how many are left?
4) 11 shad, how many eyes?
5) 15 shad, how many caudal fins?

C
ALPHABETICAL ORDER
Write these words in alphabetical order.

fish  shad  hooks  bait
lures  water  gills  caudal fin

1) ____________________________  2) ____________________________
3) ____________________________  4) ____________________________
5) ____________________________  6) ____________________________
7) ____________________________  8) ____________________________
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1) What is the opposite of lose?
2) Brad bit a hook and was ______?
3) What do we call a person who fishes?
4) What covers Brad's body?
5) A group of fish are called a ______?

DOWN
1) Where do fish swim?
2) Brad has a caudal _____
3) A shad is a _____
4) Brad is a _____?
5) A fisherman puts bait on his _____.

A POEM by Ursula Bok

Brad the Shad
So long and so sleek
His scales a shiny silver
His knife sharp teeth and bullet speed make little fishes quiver.
His strong forked tail and big red gills
help him not to get weary
when hunting with mates in huge big shoals
he makes little fishes teary.