

Goldfish

Hannah Nichols



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Habitat

Where do you think goldfish live?

In a natural habitat setting goldfish live in water, particularly calm water. Goldfish prefer water that is thick, muddy, and dense.

Goldfish can also be pets and live in a glass container known as an **aquarium**. In an aquarium, goldfish require plenty of space to be able to swim. The tank needs soil on the bottom of the tank and nd water temperatures anywhere between 64 and 72 **degrees Fahrenheit**.



Anatomy

Why do you think fins are important in order for goldfish to swim? The body of a goldfish is long and streamlined to help it swim quickly through the water. A goldfish has 5 sets of fins; Dorsal, Caudual, Anal, Pelvic, and the Pectoral. The **Dorsal Fin** is used for stability and the **Caudual Fin** is used to assist with forward motion and direction. The **Anal Fin** helps to keep the goldfish upright. The **Pelvic Fins** are used for stability and steering. The **Pectoral Fins** are used for low speeds.



Anatomy

You may be wondering how goldfish breathe. Goldfish use their **gills** to breathe by allowing water to flow out of the mouth and past the gills. Goldfish also have **eyes** in which they use to see out of just as humans do! Goldfish also have an opening towards the front of their body, known as the **mouth**. The mouth is used to take in food and water.



Anatomy

Believe it or not goldfish also have a nose! This **nose** is located above its mouth but is not considered to be similar to the nostril of a human. Goldfish are able to smell various odors and chemicals from substances in the water. The **nares** which are similar to a nose of a human are not connected to the mouth but are lined with sensory patches connected to chamber pouches. The last part of a goldfish is called the **Caudal Peduncle** and this is considered to be the rear section of the body.



Species: Common Goldfish

There are many different types of goldfish but we will be talking about three of them. The first goldfish type is known as the **Common Goldfish**. This is what you think of when someone says the word goldfish; orange with a smooth tapering body shape. Most varieties of goldfish were derived from this simple breed. This goldfish will thrive in a pond or in an aquarium. This type goldfish isn't picky in that they will eat pellets, veggies, live food, flakes and fruit. These goldfish may be seen swimming around as red, orange, white, black, chocolate, blue, yellow or lemon. That is a wide range of colors! **Have you ever seen the Common Goldfish in any of these colors besides orange?**



Species: Comet Goldfish

The second goldfish type is called the **Comet Goldfish**. The Comet Goldfish is one of the most popular goldfish varieties in the United States and was developed in the 1880's. This goldfish is rather similar to the Common Goldfish but you can distinguish it by its long, single and deeply forked tail fin. Many Comet Goldfish have tails that almost equal the size of their entire body length. The Comet Goldfish will eat the same food as the Common Goldfish. This species of goldfish is one of the most agile goldfish variety. This goldfish can be kept in an aquarium inside or in a pond outside. You may see this goldfish in yellow, red, orange or white!



Species: Shubunkin Goldfish

The third goldfish type is known as the **Shubunkin Goldfish**. This species is a single-tailed goldfish with a pearly appearance from the scales. The Shubunkin's are known for their different mixed colors of gray, white, blue, red, chocolate, yellow and orange. The Shubunkin will thrive in a large aquarium setting. These goldfish will eat fish flakes, veggies, fruit and live food. So, if you are looking for a multi colored fish, the Shubunkin Goldfish is your pick!



Care of a goldfish in an aquarium

Tank water temperature should be at about 74 degrees Fahrenheit and the tank should be cleaned weekly.

The tank size should be large enough so that the goldfish can swim around and move about freely.

Goldfish should be fed pellets, flakes or a mixture of both.

Would you own a goldfish?

Glossary

Aquarium- A tank of water in which fish and other water creatures are kept.

Degrees Fahrenheit- The unit of temperature used by most people in the United States in describing weather.

Dorsal Fin- This fin is used for stability.

Caudal Fin- This fin is used for forward motion and direction.

Anal Fin- This fin helps to keep the goldfish from flopping over.

Pelvic Fins- These fins are used for stability and steering.

Pectoral Fins- These fins are used when the goldfish swims at low speeds.

Gills- The goldfish uses these in order to breathe.

Eyes- The goldfish uses these to see.

Mouth- This is used to take in food and water.

Nose- The nose of a goldfish is located above its mouth but isn't connected and this is used to smell different odors and chemicals in the water.

Nares- Similar to a human nose in that they are connected to the mouth and lined with sensory patches to pick up scents.

Caudal Peduncle- This is the rear section of the body of a goldfish.

Common Goldfish- This is the most common type of goldfish and almost all types of goldfish derive from this simple breed. This goldfish is not picky with food and is very easy to take care of in either an aquarium or a pond.

Comet Goldfish- This goldfish is very similar to the Common Goldfish but can be distinguished by its long, single and deeply forked tail that just about equals it in body length.

Shubunkin Goldfish- This goldfish has a pearly appearance from its scales and is known for its unique mixed colors, such as gray, white, blue, red, chocolate, yellow and orange. This goldfish will thrive in an aquarium setting.

Common Core Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.1

Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.7

Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.10

By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 2-3 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

Works Referenced

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Media Attributions

Pg. 4 “Goldfish Body Parts” by Andrew used under <http://www.caringpets.org/how-to-take-care-of-a-goldfish/anatomy/>

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