

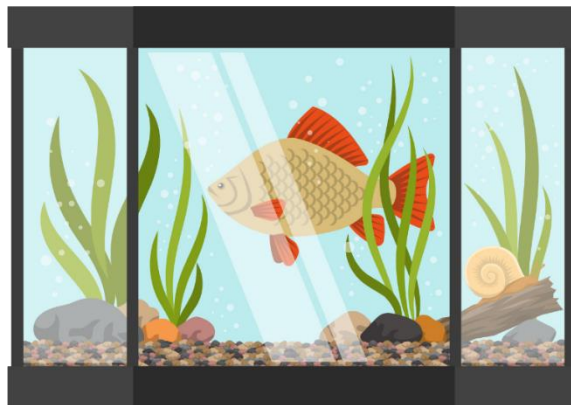
Read the short story. Then answer each question.

How to Care for a Pet Fish

Taking care of a pet is a big responsibility, so you want to make sure you learn all about your pet before bringing it home! Many kids have fish as their first pet, and fish can give you a good idea of whether or not you'll be able to take care of a more complicated pet later on.

First, choose what types of fish and how many fish you will be getting. Freshwater fish are the best fish to start with, until you get really good at taking care of fish and their tanks. Some types of fish do not get along with other types, so you'll need to research types of fish before you choose what types and how many to buy.

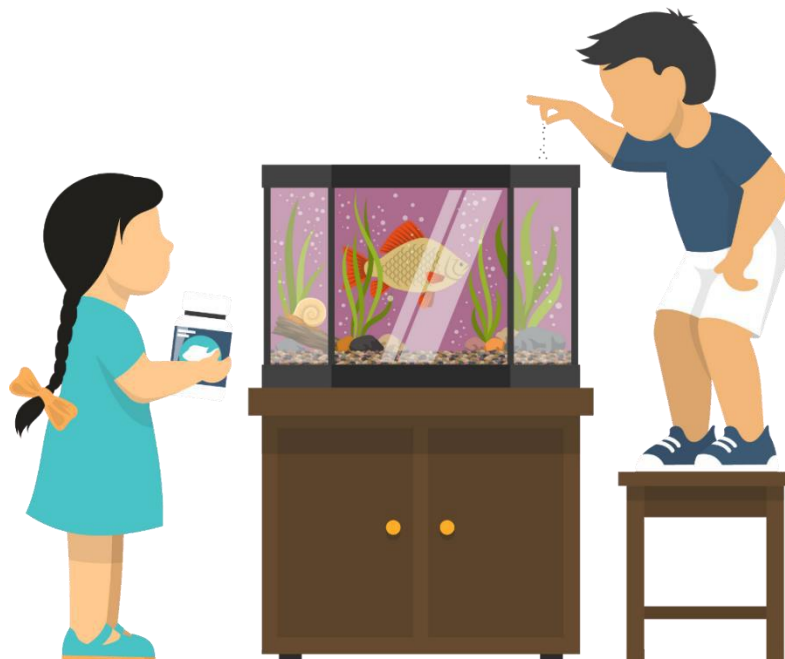
Next, you need to make sure you have all of the necessary supplies that your fish will need. They need a place to live, such as a fish tank with a lid on it. Make sure it is big enough for how many fish you are planning to get! You can put the fish tank on a dresser or other piece of furniture, or you might need to get a fish tank stand. Fish tanks also need a light, so that they can tell the difference between night and day, and an air pump and filter, to keep the water from getting dirty too quickly. The water needs to be kept at a comfortable temperature for your type of fish, so you'll need a heater and a thermometer, as well. A water testing kit for aquariums is needed, too, to make sure the water quality is good for your fish. Be sure to also get food for your fish! The last thing you need is a fish net and cleaning products for your fish tank. Many people like to get decorations for their fish tank, so save up your money if you'd like decorations!



Grade 5 Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Now that you have your supplies, you'll need to set up your aquarium. Put the tank on the stand, close enough to an outlet so that you can plug in the equipment. Wash any gravel and decorations you're planning to put in the tank. Fill the bottom of the tank with the clean gravel and your decorations, then fill the tank with water. Test the water with a test kit to make sure it will be safe for your fish. Follow the instructions on the heater to heat up the water to the temperature your fish will need. Clean and follow the instructions on the filter and air pump to get those in your fish tank. Make sure your light is ready to go, too! Some people put their lights on a timer so they don't have to remember to turn the light on and off every morning and evening.

You are ready to pick up your fish! The employees at the pet store should be able to teach you how to make sure your fish get comfortable before you release them into your aquarium. Once the fish are in the tank, you'll want to watch them closely to make sure they don't get sick. Feed them in small amounts a few times a day. Too much extra food will make the quality of the water bad, and is not good for your fish! You will have to change some of the water at least once a week. You might need to change the water a little more often for the first few weeks. Be sure to test the water to make sure it is a healthy place for your fish to live. Enjoy your new pets!



Questions:

1. What type of fish are best for people who have not taken care of fish before?

2. Why do you need to research types of fish before you buy them?

3. What does “*release*” mean in the last paragraph? How do you know?

4. What is the topic of the second paragraph?

5. Would a pet fish be a good fit for you? Why or why not?

Answers:

1. What type of fish are best for people who have not taken care of fish before?

Freshwater fish are best for people who have not taken care of fish before.

2. Why do you need to research types of fish before you buy them?

You'll need to research the types of fish you buy as some types of fish don't get on with other types of fish.

3. What does "release" mean in the last paragraph? How do you know?

Release means to allow something to move. The employees at the pet store should teach you how to make sure your fish get comfortable before you allow them to move into the aquarium.

4. What is the topic of the second paragraph?

The topic of the second paragraph is about choosing the types of fish.

5. Would a pet fish be a good fit for you? Why or why not?

Answers will vary.