

Welcome to this fantastic issue of Kind Matters!

We hope you all had a wonderful school holiday - how exciting is it to welcome a new school term with a brand new issue of Kind Matters?! This issue explores the lives of fish; both those we keep as companions and those that live in the wild. You can learn fun facts about fish, what's important when caring for your companion fish, and why wild freshwater fish need our help. You'll learn heaps in this issue while having fun completing the crafts and activities!

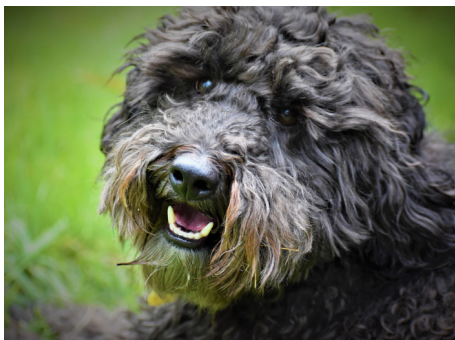
But before you dive into this issue, we have one more exciting announcement... our judges have chosen the winners of our Animal Portrait Photography competition! Without further ado, the winners are...

Junior Winner:
Lucas from Lochiel School



"We got Jerry from the SPCA in Invercargill!"

Senior Winner:
Caitlin from Waipukurau



"This is our family dog Louis, he is a Labradoodle."

SPCA Competition:

This competition combines your creative thinking and design talents with your new knowledge from this issue of Kind Matters!

In our activities section of this newsletter, there is a picture of an empty aquarium. We want you to transform this boring, empty space into the ultimate goldfish environment! Once you have finished, we want you to send us a photo or scanned image of the awesome, enrichment-filled aquarium that you have designed!

It's important to remember all of the things that fish need to be happy and healthy – plants, substrate, space, hide-outs, companions, etc. You can read the [Fish Care](#) section on your Kids' Portal to make sure you cater for all of your fishes' needs.

See page 5 for details on how to enter the competition!

Please note: by entering SPCA competitions, you're agreeing for SPCA New Zealand to share your work on the SPCA Kids' Portal and within social media postings.

What's Inside



A Closer Look at: Goldfish – Morihana

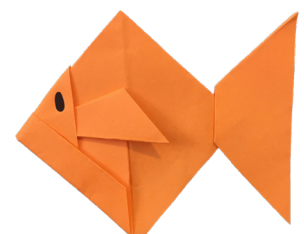
Fun facts about our scaly friends.



Kind Conservation – Freshwater Fish

Learn about NZ's native freshwater fish.

Photo: Simon Madill/Department of Conservation



Craft Time – Origami Goldfish

Learn how to make an origami goldfish, step-by-step.

and much more...



Visit www.kids.spcaeducation.org.nz

Fun Fact: Fish do NOT have short memories.

One of the most important things to remember when you have a fish is that they DO NOT have short memories. In fact, fish are intelligent animals that have excellent long-term memories - they remember sounds, people, and other fish. Some fish have even been known to react to training. Scientists have discovered that fishes' brains are more similar to our own than previously thought as well! Many species can recognise themselves and others, work together, and learn from each other.



A Closer Look at: Goldfish

There are thousands of species of companion fish in the world, many of which have become beloved family members all across New Zealand. Two popular types of fish that guardians have in their homes are cold water and tropical fish. This issue of Kind Matters will explore the life of a very beautiful and smart cold water companion fish... the goldfish!

Goldfish are amongst the most popular companion fish. These water-dwelling companions don't need to go for daily walks, but they still need enrichment and exercise. This means it's important that they have lots of space in their aquarium to swim and play – the bigger their environment, the better!

Goldfish have a lifespan averaging about 10-15 years, with some varieties living up to 30 years when they are provided with proper care. Unfortunately, many goldfish do not reach their lifespan potential due to inadequate housing conditions. A goldfish's aquarium needs to meet their physical, behavioural and mental needs.

Just like any other animal, fish need clean water to live. However, clean, oxygenated water is a key component of ALL the five freedoms for fish. This is because they live their whole lives in water - they eat, sleep, rest, exercise, etc. here so it's essential to be clean for their wellbeing. As goldfish are cold water species, they generally don't need a tank heater and are

happy in room temperature water – do remember that the “cold water” classification does NOT mean they need to be in cold water. You will need a thermometer in their aquarium to ensure that the water is not too warm OR too cold for your fish. Talk to your fish veterinarian to ensure you have the right aquarium set-up.

What, when, where, and how your fish eat really depends on their species. There are thousands of different species of fish, all with different dietary needs. It is essential to feed your fish the appropriate food for their species, this ensures that they



Book Nook

Have you heard the exciting news? There's a brand new series of SPCA Storybooks and SPCA has sent every primary school in New Zealand 36 free copies! This new series explores the lives of wild animals, and why it's up to us as responsible animal guardians to protect them and their habitats!

There are six brand new original stories to read – ask your Teacher to help you find them in your school now!



get the right type of nutrients in the right amounts. Not only do fish need fish flakes/pellets as part of their diet, many species of fish also require a mix of other foods for balanced nutrition and enrichment. What someone would feed their goldfish compared to what someone would feed their tropical fish differs greatly. It is always best to talk to a veterinarian that specializes in caring for and treating fish as they can help you develop an appropriate meal plan for your fish.

The difference between wild and companion animals

Here at SPCA, we sometimes receive questions about keeping wild animals as companions (pets). Firstly, we always remind people that they cannot keep native or protected New Zealand wildlife without a permit from the Department of Conservation (DOC). We also explain that it's important to understand that wild animals are very different than companion animals and it is extremely difficult to keep animals from the wild happy and healthy in captivity.



Wild animals are incredible, adorable, and smart, but part of what makes them so special is that they spend their lives living freely and independently from humans. Animals more commonly known as companions (such as dogs, cats and domestic rabbits), have been selectively bred over thousands of years for specific traits that make these animals better-suited for living with humans. We also know quite a bit about keeping dogs, cats, and rabbits healthy and happy as members of our families. It is much more difficult to do this with wild animals because there is so much we do not know about them.

Just like companion animals have important welfare needs, called the five freedoms, wild animals also have complex social, emotional, psychological, behavioural, and nutritional needs. However, wild animals do best when they can meet these needs in their natural habitats, rather than relying on humans. Meeting the needs of wildlife in captivity is a huge challenge, and often we struggle to do it well for several reasons.

For example:

1 Wild animals are well-adapted to their natural habitats to carry out natural behaviours such as roaming, foraging, and breeding. It can be difficult to replicate these habitats that are needed to enrich the lives of wild animals - an important part of their welfare.

2 Another vital part of an animal's wellbeing is companionship of their

own species. Without companions of their own kind, many animals become stressed, bored and/or lonely. Humans won't be able to meet the social needs of a wild animal as well as a member of their own species can.

3 Wild animals can carry diseases in their blood, urine, faeces, etc. – this could cause serious harm to the health and safety of the humans and other animals in the home.

4 Taking an animal from the wild for companionship is a very stressful thing to do to a wild animal. This can also disrupt close-knit groups of wild animals when one of their members is taken, as well as harm ecosystems by removing important members of these wild communities.

There are situations when sick, injured, orphaned, or distressed wildlife need human help. Wildlife rehabilitation is the process of providing help to a wild animal so that they may survive when released back into their natural habitat. Wildlife rehabilitation is a long-term commitment that may involve veterinary care, feeding, nursing, housing, physical and nutritional support of animals. Successful rehabilitation results in fit, healthy animals that can be released back into the wild.

Please note that there are some cases in which kind and compassionate people have helped wild animals in need, and as such, they are not able to return to the wild. However, in general – wild animals are happiest and healthiest when they can thrive in the wild!



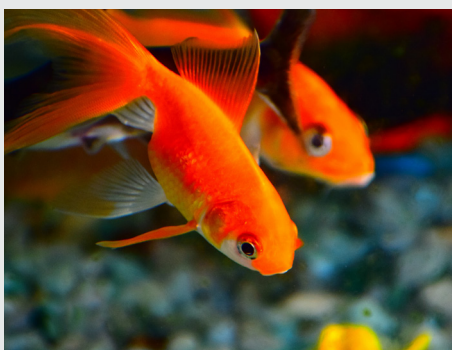
While you cannot keep native and protected wildlife without a permit from DOC, you can still be their guardians – this means treating them humanely, as well as with compassion and respect. All animals are sentient beings which means they are capable of having their own thoughts and feelings. They feel happiness, boredom, fear, loneliness, excitement, etc., just like humans do! This is why SPCA believes that all animal lives matter in our communities and we work hard to advance animal welfare and prevent cruelty to all animals. You can learn how you can help wildlife in a kind and compassionate way on the Kids' Portal's new Wildlife section [here](#).



What to do if you find an injured bird, beached whale, or other native or protected animals that might need help:

Ring these phone numbers and DOC or MPI will tell you what to do next. If you don't know if an animal is native, still call either DOC, or MPI.

- > **For 1 or 2 sick, injured or dead animals:** Ring the DOC emergency hotline 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468).
- > **For whale or dolphin strandings:** Ring the DOC emergency hotline 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468).
- > **For a group of 3 or more sick, injured or dead animals:** Ring the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) pest and disease hotline on 0800 80 99 66.



Responsible Guardianship Tip:

It's a myth that fish are low maintenance companions!

Although companion fish have different needs than that of other companion animals – they still require time, money, love, and understanding. You'll spend time cleaning their

aquarium, money on food, you need to care, love, and respect them every day, and you need to learn all about the things they need to be happy and healthy. Animals deserve to have the very best life and as a responsible animal guardian, it's up to you to provide it!

Kind Conservation: Freshwater fish



Birds in the sky, whales in the ocean, pekapeka in the forest – throughout the diverse wildlife habitats of Aotearoa, there are so many incredible wild animal species. For example, if you take a look at freshwater habitats, there are more than 50 native freshwater fish species alone! This includes eels, bullies, mudfish, torrentfish, just to name a few of the identified species. This number doesn't even include the unidentified, non-native and endemic fish. How incredible is that? These fish are smart, have their own personalities, and depend on their habitat to live happy and healthy

lives - that's why they're the focus of this issue's Kind Conservation!

Just like there are many different fish species, there are many different types of freshwater habitats. Rivers, wetlands, estuaries, lakes, mountain streams – these are some of the places that freshwater fish species call home. Though there are several of these native species, they are not commonly seen. This has a lot to do with the fact that these fish are camouflage experts, they're often shy, hiding in rocks and crevices, and most of them are nocturnal, so they're most active during the night when we're all asleep!

One of the many things that makes these freshwater fish so cool is that some species are able to climb – that's right, you read that correctly – climbing fish! This is a behaviour mostly done when the fish are small, using their fins to stick to the wet rock surfaces. This is an amazing example of how animals have evolved and adapted over time.

Unfortunately, over half of the freshwater species found in New Zealand are at risk of going extinct. A big reason for this is habitat loss. The majority of natural freshwater habitats have been drained or filled in by humans to create buildings, car parks, malls, and land for farming. Freshwater fish are dependent on these habitats for everything they need to survive, so it's up to us to make drastic changes to protect them!



So, what can you do to help?

Take a look at the list below:

- > If you live near a stream, with the help of an adult, you can make sure nothing is blocking fishes' ability to swim freely up and down stream.
- > You and your family can volunteer helping to plant native plants.
- > Organize a community clean-up and never litter or pollute water.
- > You can write to your local council and ask them to fence off stream edges where these fish live and breed to help protect both them and their habitat.
- > Follow and respect the rules around fishing and avoid dragging nets through streams.
- > Never release companion fish, turtles, or aquatic plants into natural habitats.
- > Keep dogs under control and keep to pathways when going on outdoor adventures.
- > You can write a polite email or letter to the government urging further protection of New Zealand's precious native fish and their habitats.
- > Spread the word – let your friends and whānau know about the importance of protecting freshwater fish.

Eye know! Guess the Animal Eye

Can you guess what animal each of the eyes belongs to? Take a guess and check your answers below.



Meet our new mascots

We now have seven brand new mascots that have joined our SPCA Team. To learn more about these animals, visit the [Animal Care](#) section of SPCA's Kids' Portal! BUT first... find out our new animal mascots names by matching them to their introductions below!

Check your answers below.

1. Hi, my name is Millie. I'm the only species of my kind that live in alpine habitats!
2. Hi, my name is Elvis. I'm endemic to New Zealand and am a surprisingly good climber.
3. Hi, my name is Cora. My species are also called kekeno!
4. Hi, my name is Taz. I originally come from Australia!
5. Hi, my name is Arthur. There's nothing I love more than water!
6. Hi, we're Fred & George. Did you know that we have excellent memories?
7. Hi, my name is Sheldon. I enjoy swimming and basking, but I don't like being handled.

a



b



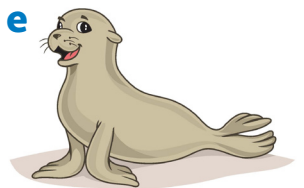
c



d



e



f



g



Share your ideas!

What animals would you like to learn more about?
Let us know by emailing education@spca.nz!

Fish Enrichment Competition

Enrichment is an important part of every animal's wellbeing – however, all animals' enrichment needs are different depending on their species. Check out the [Fish Care](#) section of the Kids' Portal to learn about the things that fish need. Next, grab your art supplies and design an enriched fish environment by transforming the boring aquarium image on the page below into a home that companion fish would love! Don't forget to submit your final creation to this issue's competition!

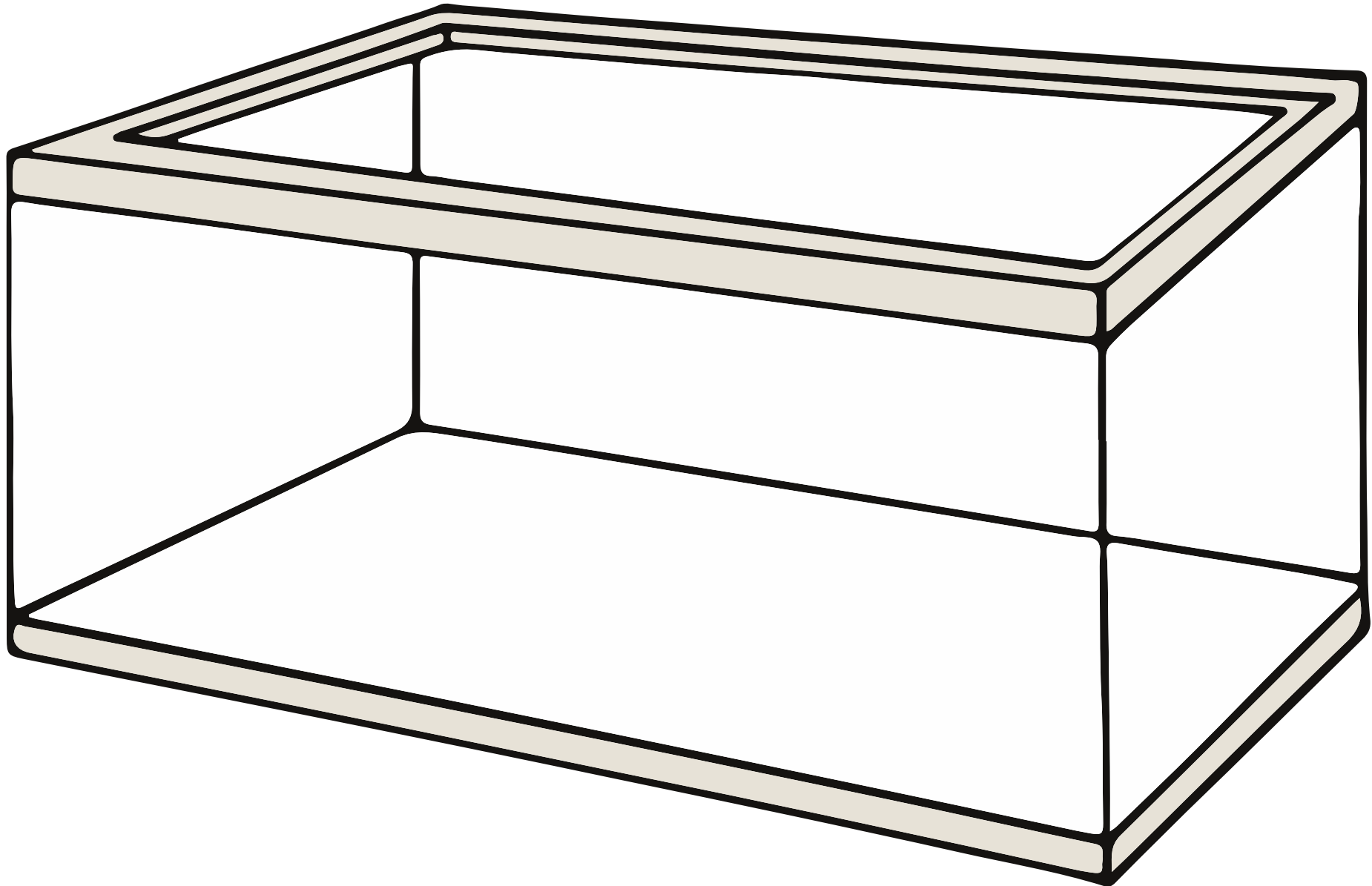
You can email your picture to education@spca.nz with the subject "Fish Enrichment Competition" by 18 Oct 2020 OR you can mail it to: Attn: Education Coordinator, SPCA New Zealand, Level 1, 3047 Great North Road, New Lynn, Auckland 0600. Please provide your name, age, school, and contact details!

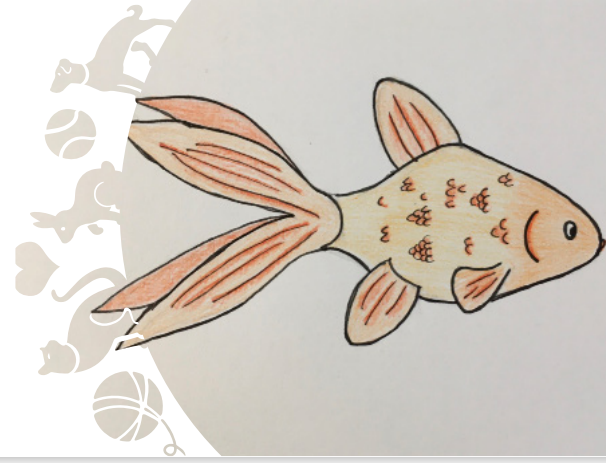
Thank you to our amazing sponsors for their generous support:

- [Faber Castell NZ](#)
- [Whittaker's NZ](#)
- [Mary Egan Publishing](#)
- [Wheelers](#)
- [Hamilton Zoo](#)

Meet our new mascots
Answers:
1. c
2. a
3. e
4. f
5. b
6. g
7. d

Eye know! Answers:
Cat
Horse
Guinea Pig
Chicken
Goat
Rabbit

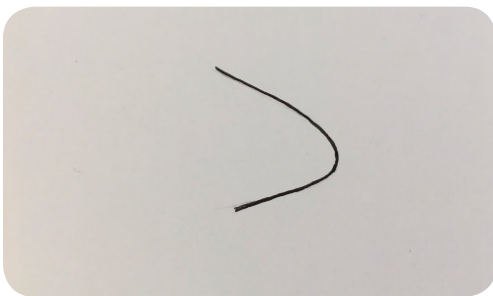




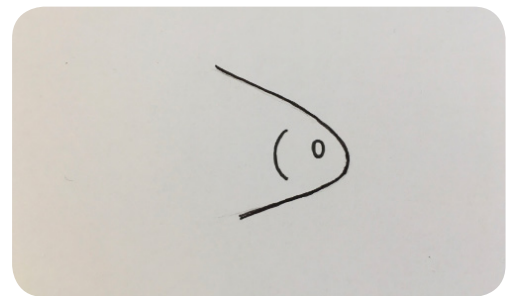
How to Draw a Goldfish

Drawing is a super fun activity, especially when you're drawing animals! Follow the step-by-step instructions below to learn how to draw a goldfish. Once you've got the hang of it, get creative with your drawings!

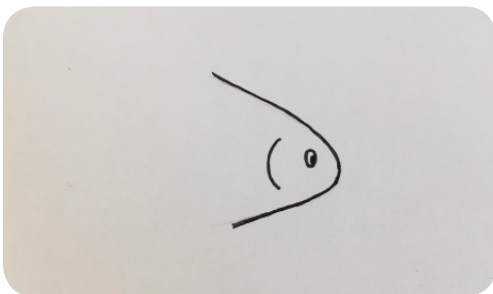
Instructions:



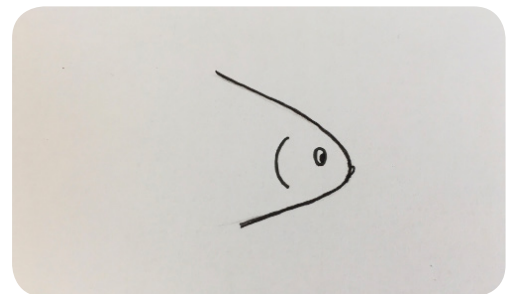
- 1** Start by drawing a curve like the one above. This will be your fish's face.



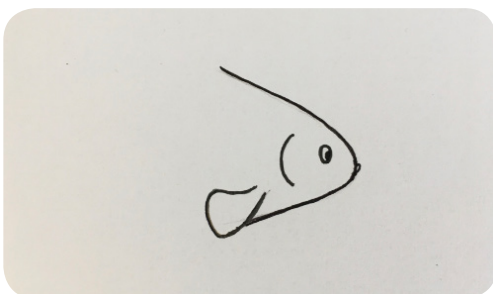
- 2** Next, draw a curve for the gills, and a circle for the eye.



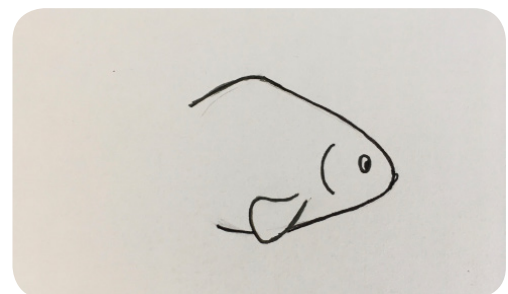
- 3** Draw a pupil in your fish's eye to add a bit of character!



- 4** Add a small oval to your fish's face for their lip.



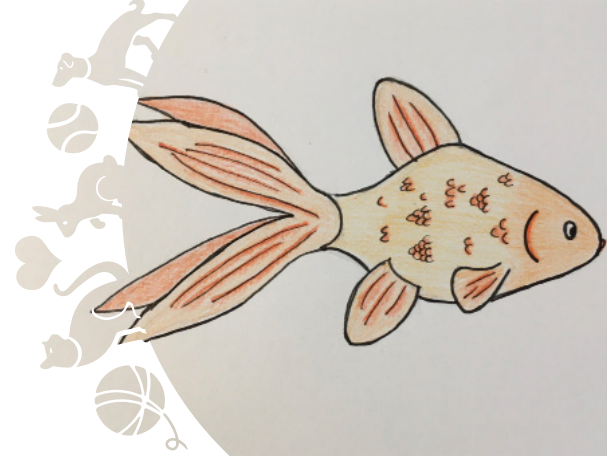
- 5** Draw your fish's front fin. This is called the pectoral fin.



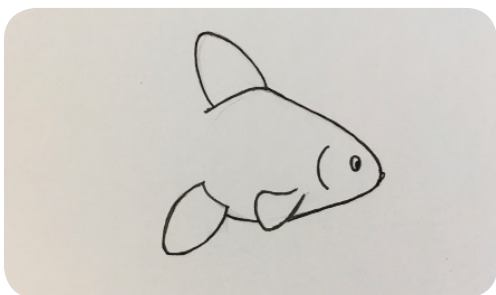
- 6** Make the lines of your fish's back and belly longer.



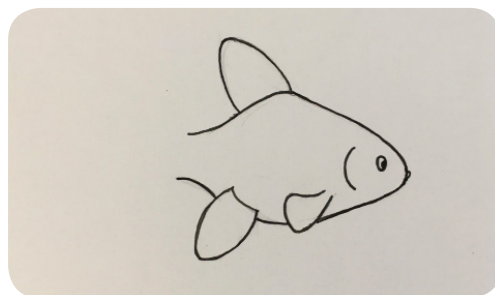
How to Draw a Goldfish



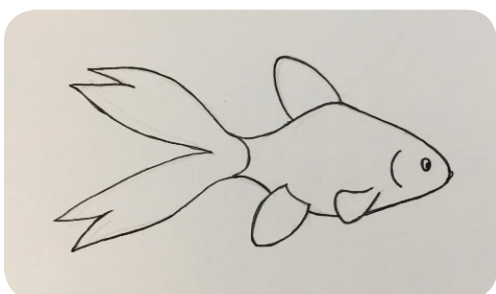
Instructions continued:



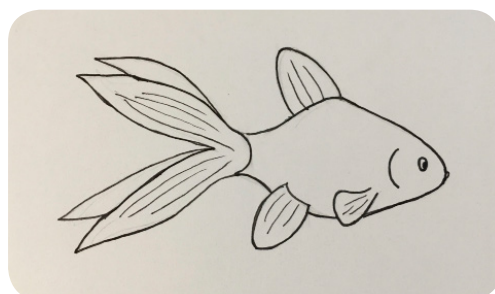
- 7** Next, draw your fish's back (dorsal) and belly (pelvic) fins.



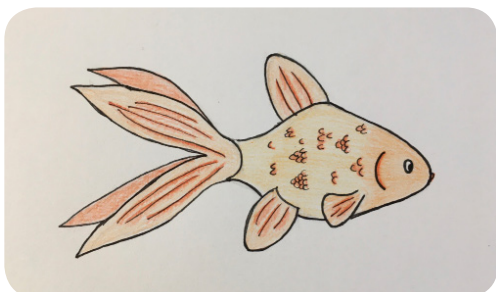
- 8** Bring the lines of your fish's back and belly closer together.



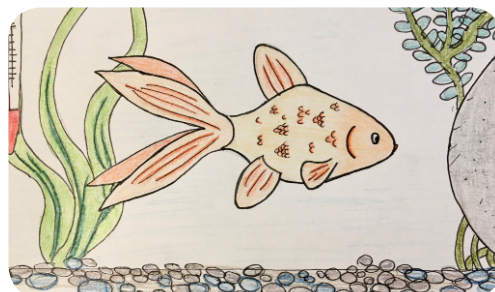
- 9** Draw your fish's tail fins. These are called caudal fins.



- 10** Add detail to your fish's fins.

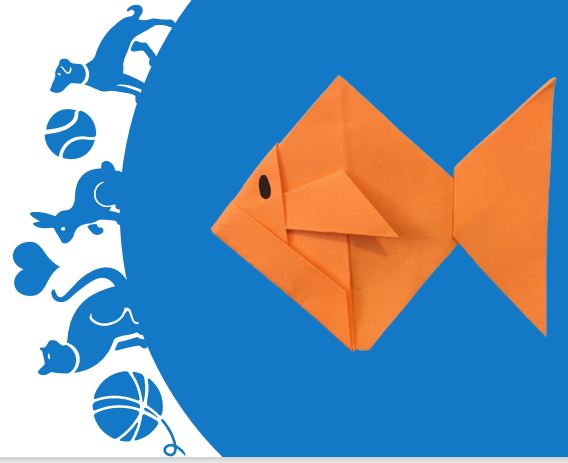


- 11** Colour your goldfish!



- 12** Get creative - you can draw your fish in their aquarium with everything they need to be happy and healthy!

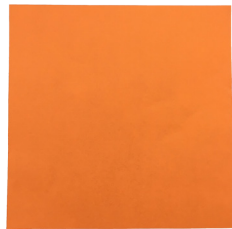




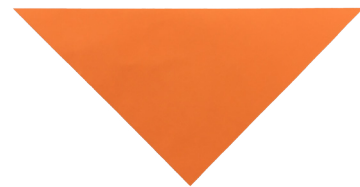
Origami Goldfish Instructions

Origami is the Japanese art of making shapes and figures out of pieces of paper - you can even make animals. Follow the directions below to make your very own origami goldfish!

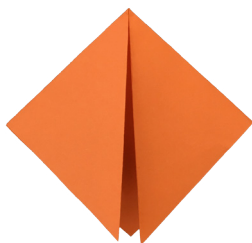
Instructions:



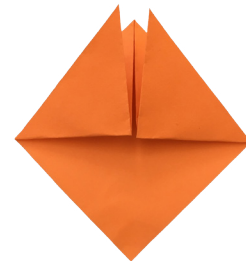
- 1 Start a square of origami paper approximately 15cm x 15m.



- 2 Take one square and fold it in half, top to bottom



- 3 Next, bring the right and left corners of the triangle to the bottom point.



- 4 Fold the two flaps in half, up to the top point.

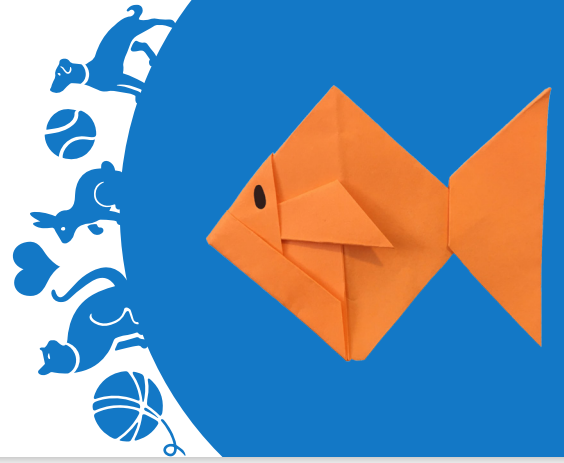


- 5 Fold the corners of the flaps outward.



- 6 Fold the top flap of the bottom point about 2/3 upward.

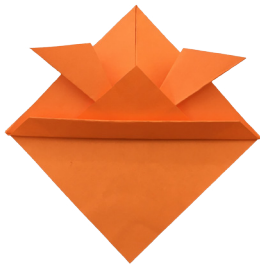




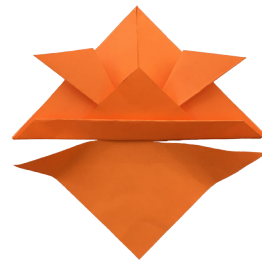
Origami Goldfish Instructions

Origami is the Japanese art of making shapes and figures out of pieces of paper - you can even make animals. Follow the directions below to make your very own origami goldfish!

Instructions continued:



- 7** Bring the bottom part of that flap upward, and fold it in half.



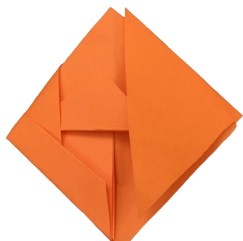
- 8** Cut slits on each side of the bottom flap, leaving a gap in the middle.



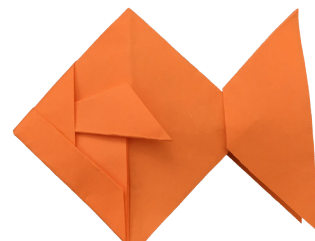
- 9** Fold the cut flap behind to make a triangle shape.



- 10** Open the paper at the bottom.



- 11** Flatten the paper to create a square, with the cut flap on the outside.



- 12** Fold the tail back and flatten. Add your fish's eyes and you're done!

