

Name _____



What's on the Menu for Angelfish?

Angelfish are fascinating creatures with unique diets that match their habitats. They are omnivores, meaning they eat both plants and animals. This flexible diet helps them survive in diverse environments, whether it's the freshwater rivers of the Amazon or the colorful coral reefs of the ocean.

Freshwater angelfish, often found in rivers with lots of plants and gentle currents, eat a mix of food. They enjoy munching on algae, tiny insects, and even small crustaceans, like shrimp. The plants and algae growing on rocks and logs are easy for them to nibble on. When hunting for insects or crustaceans, freshwater angelfish use their sharp eyesight to spot tiny movements in the water.

Saltwater angelfish, on the other hand, live in coral reefs where food is plentiful. Their diet includes algae, sponges, and small sea creatures like plankton. Some species, such as the Queen Angelfish, love eating sponges, which are soft and filled with nutrients. The bright colors of the coral reef help these fish blend in, making it easier for them to catch their meals without being spotted by predators.

One of the most interesting things about angelfish is how they find and eat their food. Freshwater angelfish often swim close to plants or rocks, gently pecking at algae or insects. Saltwater angelfish use their pointed "noses" to poke into tiny cracks in coral to find hidden sponges or other tasty treats. Their strong jaws help them nibble on harder foods like algae.

Even though angelfish have plenty of food options, their diet can be affected by changes in their environment. Pollution and habitat destruction can reduce the amount of algae or other creatures available for them to eat. This is why keeping their homes clean and protected is so important.

Whether they're snacking on algae or hunting for tiny creatures, angelfish show just how amazing and adaptable nature can be. By learning about their diets, we can better understand their role in keeping their ecosystems healthy.