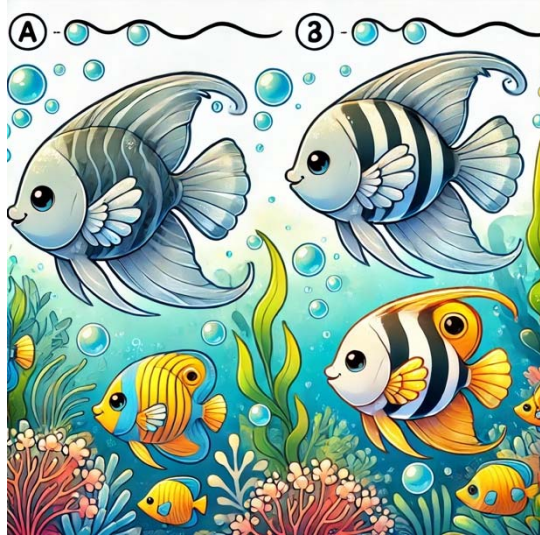


Name _____



How Do Angelfish Move?

Angelfish are some of the most graceful swimmers in the underwater world. With their flat, disc-shaped bodies and long, flowing fins, they seem to glide effortlessly through the water. Unlike creatures that run, climb, or fly, angelfish rely entirely on swimming to move around their environment.

Angelfish use their fins to swim efficiently. Their pectoral fins, located on either side of their body, help them steer and make precise movements. The dorsal fin, which runs along their back, and the anal fin, located underneath their body, stabilize them and keep them upright as they swim. Meanwhile, their caudal fin, or tail fin, provides the power they need to push forward through the water. By coordinating the movements of these fins, angelfish can swim with speed and agility.

Angelfish are not the fastest swimmers in the ocean or freshwater rivers. Instead, they are built for precision and control. Their movements are slow and deliberate, allowing them to navigate through coral reefs or plants without bumping into obstacles. This careful swimming is important because angelfish often search for food, such as algae or small creatures, hidden in tight spaces. One of the most remarkable things about how angelfish move is their ability to hover in place. By gently moving their pectoral fins, they can stay almost perfectly still in the water. This is useful when they are protecting their territory, caring for their eggs, or hiding from predators. Their ability to hover makes them seem as if they are floating gracefully in the water.

Angelfish also use their movements to communicate. For example, a quick flick of their fins or a sudden dart forward might warn other fish to stay away. In contrast, smooth, gentle swimming shows that they are calm and not feeling threatened.

While angelfish may not be the fastest swimmers, their movements are perfectly suited to their environment. Their elegant swimming style allows them to survive and thrive in rivers and reefs, showing that sometimes, moving with care and grace is just as important as moving with speed.