

Name _____

How Do Catfish Reproduce?

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The male catfish protects the eggs to ensure they hatch safely and aren't eaten by predators. This increases the chances of the species surviving.
2. Laying a large number of eggs helps catfish survive because even though many fry will be lost to predators or other dangers, some will survive and grow into adults.
3. Baby catfish might face challenges like being eaten by predators, finding food, or adapting to their environment.
4. Observing a male catfish guarding a nest, you might notice him staying near the eggs, chasing away predators, and fanning the eggs with his fins. These behaviors are important to keep the eggs safe and oxygenated.

