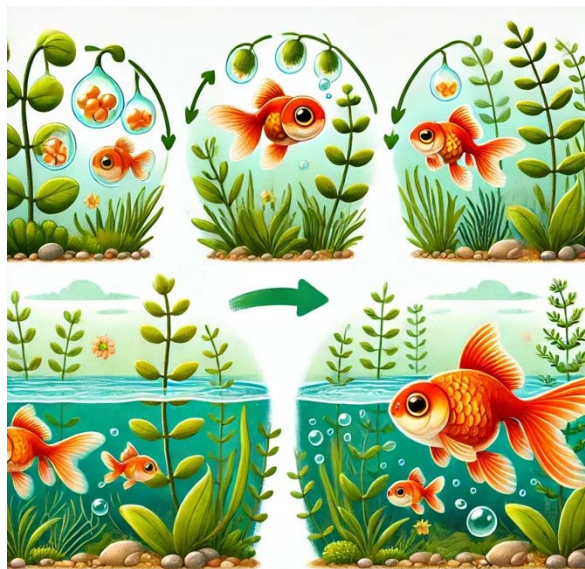


Name _____



Goldfish: From Egg to Adult

The life cycle of a goldfish is an amazing journey from a tiny egg to a fully grown adult. Goldfish go through several stages in their life, and each stage is important for their development.

Goldfish start life as eggs. A female goldfish can lay hundreds or even thousands of eggs at one time. These eggs stick to surfaces like plants or rocks in the water. Within 2 to 7 days, the eggs hatch into tiny baby goldfish called fry.

Fry are almost transparent when they first hatch and are very small, so they need to hide among plants to stay safe from predators.

During the fry stage, baby goldfish begin to grow and develop their fins. They also start to show color, which can take several weeks. At this stage, they feed on tiny organisms in the water, such as plankton, and sometimes special food provided by their caretakers.

As they grow bigger, goldfish move into the juvenile stage. In this stage, they look more like adult goldfish but are still small. Juvenile goldfish are more active and curious, exploring their environment and eating a variety of foods. They continue to grow quickly during this time.

Finally, goldfish reach adulthood, which usually happens by the time they are one year old. Adult goldfish can range in size from 4 to 12 inches, depending on their environment and care. In the wild, goldfish may live in ponds or slow-moving rivers, while pet goldfish thrive in aquariums or backyard ponds. With good care, goldfish can live for 10 to 15 years, and some have even been known to live over 20 years!

Goldfish do not stop growing after they reach adulthood, but their growth slows down. How large a goldfish grows depends on its living space, water quality, and diet.

The life cycle of a goldfish is a fascinating process that shows how much these tiny creatures can change and adapt. From a tiny egg to a beautiful adult, goldfish go through incredible transformations.