

Name _____



What Does a Koi Eat?

Koi fish are not picky eaters! These colorful fish are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and animals. This variety in their diet helps koi grow strong and healthy. Let's dive into the details of what koi eat and how they find their food.

In ponds, koi fish often eat algae that grows on rocks and surfaces. Algae is like a leafy vegetable for koi, providing them with important nutrients. Koi also munch on small water plants, like duckweed, and love feasting on soft fruits like watermelon or lettuce when it's given to them by their owners. These plant-based foods make up an important part of a koi's diet.

But koi don't stop at plants—they also eat tiny animals! They enjoy snacking on insects, worms, and even small crustaceans like shrimp. If there are bugs floating on the surface of the water, a koi fish might swim up and gobble them up in one quick motion. Their mouths are perfectly designed for grabbing food from the surface or from the bottom of their pond.

In the wild, koi would search for food in rivers or lakes, digging through mud and gravel to find tasty treats. However, most koi today live in ponds where they rely on their owners to feed them. Many koi owners give their fish special pellets made just for them. These pellets are full of vitamins and nutrients to keep koi healthy. Some koi are even trained to eat right out of their owner's hand!

Koi fish don't hunt their food like predators, but they are always looking for something to nibble on. Their keen sense of smell helps them locate food, and their gentle way of eating makes them fun to watch. Whether they're munching on a piece of lettuce or gulping down a bug, koi fish have a diet as colorful as their scales!