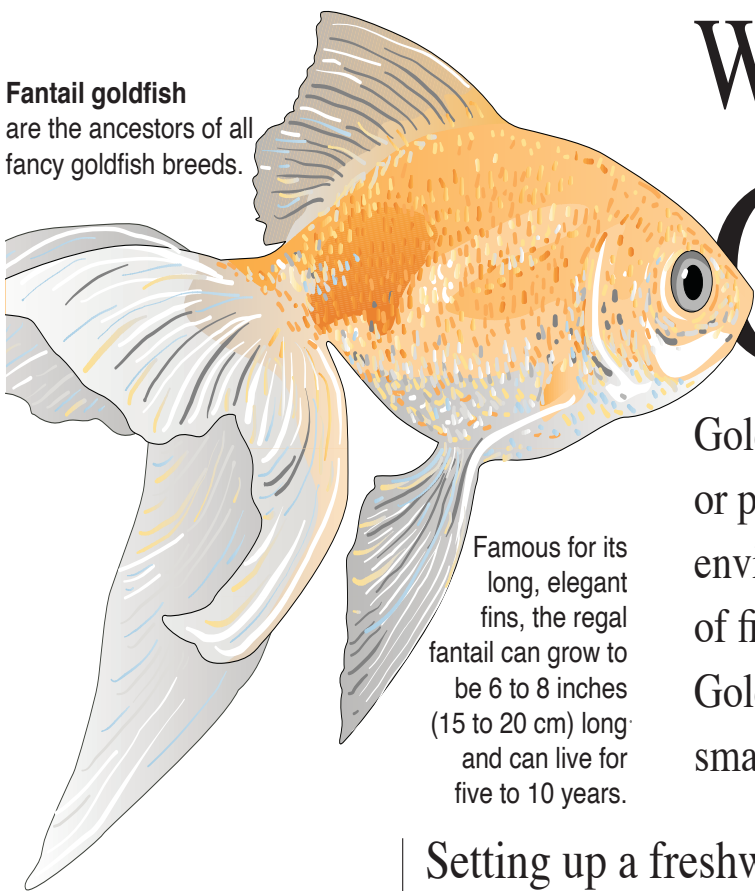




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**Fantail goldfish**  
are the ancestors of all  
fancy goldfish breeds.



Famous for its  
long, elegant  
fins, the regal  
fantail can grow to  
be 6 to 8 inches  
(15 to 20 cm) long  
and can live for  
five to 10 years.

## WORLD OF WONDER

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# GOLDFISH

Goldfish are beautiful, hardy fish, ideal for first-time aquarium or pond enthusiasts. Whether indoors or outdoors, the environment needs to be large enough for the number of fish you have and must be cleaned often.

Goldfish should never be kept in small glass bowls or jars.



**Bubble eye goldfish**

This fancy fish is characterized by large, fluid-filled sacs and the lack of a dorsal fin.

It is also known as the water-bubble eye goldfish, and its large eye sacs are quite delicate.

### All in the family

One of the most popular home aquarium fish, goldfish were the first fish to be domesticated. The ancient Chinese developed many distinctive breeds. Today, there are about 100 varieties. They come in a plethora of colors and sizes. Some goldfish have unusual features, such as enlarged eyes or huge fins. Goldfish were introduced to Japan and Europe in the 1600s.

### Choosing a fish

If you go out to buy a goldfish, make sure you choose a healthy one. Look for a fish that meets these criteria:

Swims around actively and normally (no floating or sinking problems).

Looks perky and is constantly on the move.

Doesn't have defects like a bent back or missing fins.

Isn't in the same tank with sick or dead fish.

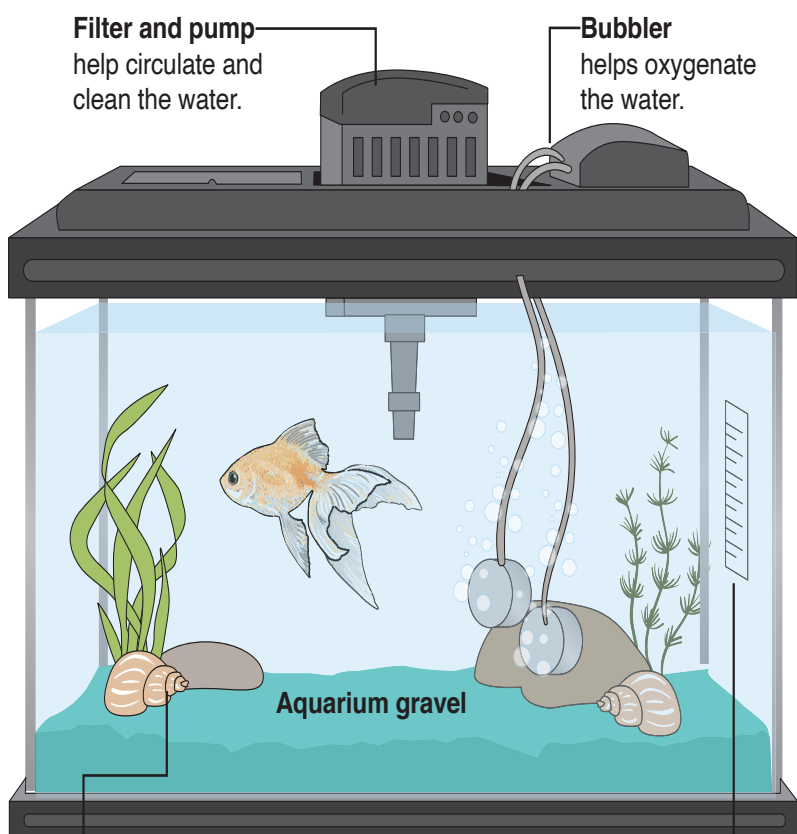
Isn't living in dirty water conditions.

Doesn't show obvious signs of illness (odd-looking fins, white spots, red marks, etc.).

### Setting up a freshwater aquarium

There is a lot to think about when setting up an aquarium, and it can be an expensive hobby, but many of the things you need can be found secondhand.

You will need a good-sized aquarium. In general, it should be at least 10 gallons for each goldfish, so three goldfish would need a 30-gallon tank at the minimum. In addition to fish food and water conditioner (to neutralize chlorine), you will also need gravel, some plants (real or silk), maybe some aquarium decor, a filter, a bubbler, a thermometer and a water test kit. Once you have the habitat set up and have established a stable nitrogen cycle, you can introduce your goldfish.



**Plants & decor**

Fish need a place to relax in privacy. Plants and decor can provide a refuge.

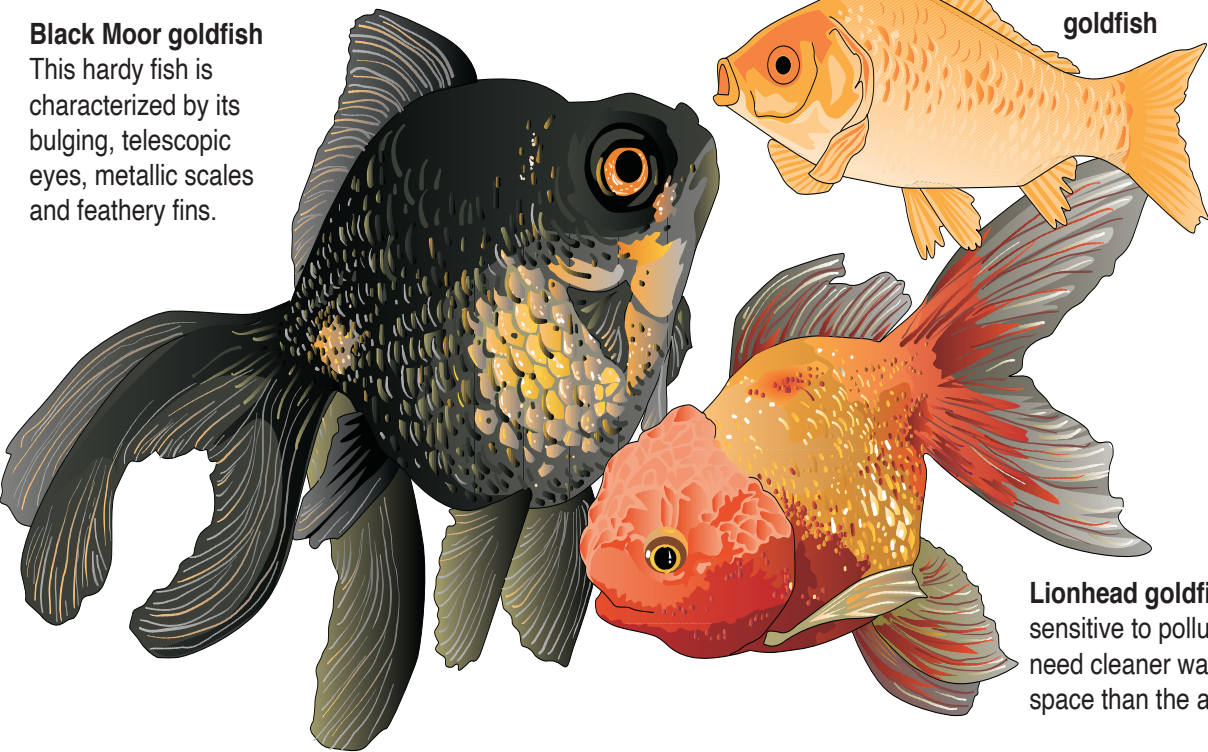
**Thermometer**

Most fancy goldfish do best in water that is 68° to 74° F (20° to 23° C).

**Common goldfish**

### Black Moor goldfish

This hardy fish is characterized by its bulging, telescopic eyes, metallic scales and feathery fins.

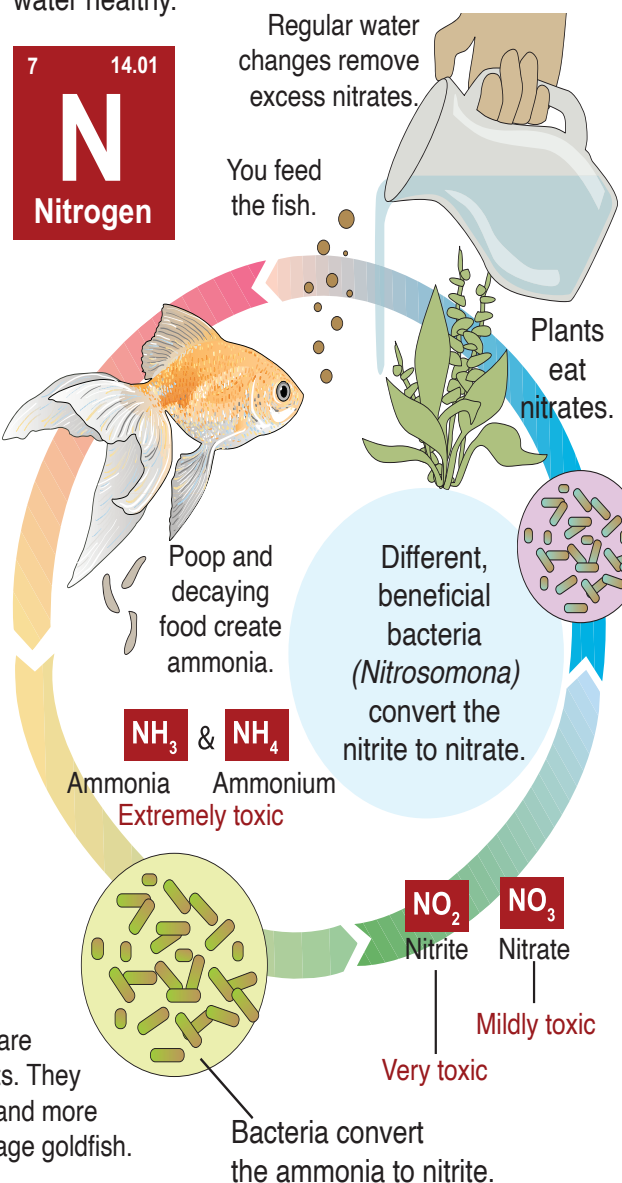


**Lionhead goldfish** are sensitive to pollutants. They need cleaner water and more space than the average goldfish.

### Good bacteria & nitrogen cycle

Before you bring your fish home, you should set up the aquarium and establish a healthy water chemistry. Your fish could die if the amount of ammonia, nitrate or nitrite is off. A freshwater test kit can help you know the chemical makeup of your water. It's a delicate balance because you need ammonia to build good bacteria, but too much ammonia will kill the fish. That's why testing the water is a good idea. It can take between six and seven weeks to complete and stabilize the nitrogen cycle.

During the nitrogen cycle, fish waste turns into toxic nitrogen compounds like ammonia, nitrites and nitrates. Having lots of beneficial bacteria and plants to consume the waste products keeps the water healthy.



SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; <https://www.britannica.com>; <https://en.wikipedia.org>; <https://www.about-goldfish.com>; <https://www.tankarium.com>

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