Goldfish Observations

- Goldfish observations: [observational activity]

  Goldfish
  plastic cups
  thermometers
  water conditioner
  cheesecloth

  1. Student groups prepare the proper environment for a goldfish (dechlorinate water and maintain 65°-70°F [approx. 20°C] water temperature).
  2. Make observations and drawings.

- Observing the circulation of blood in a goldfish tail: [observational activity]
  1 small goldfish
  microprojector
  slide
  petri dish
  cheesecloth

  1. Place wet cheesecloth in petri dish.
  2. Wrap goldfish with cloth, leaving tail exposed.
  3. Place microscope slide over tail. Note: This will be more functional with a broken piece of slide (about one-third the length of the slide) so that the tail can be closer to the edge of the petri dish.
     If the petri dish won't fit on the stage of the microprojector, you can lay the fish on a slide and put another piece of glass over its tail.
  4. Allow students to file by the screen and observe the blood flow.

Return fish to water within five minutes (water should be aerated with an air stone).

Fish scales

- Fish scales: [observational activity]
  Microprojector
  large fish scales

  1. Use the polarizing filters on the microprojector. Winter growth rings are dark bands and close together. Summer growth rings are light bands and are further apart.
  2. Count winter bands to determine the age of the fish.