Welcome to the Aquarium Activity Sheet

Keeping fish is a beautiful and relaxing hobby! An aquarium with healthy fish and plants living within their own ecosystem is a remarkable sight. Your assignment will be to recommend supplies and fish for a classroom aquarium.

You can begin to think about which types of fish to buy, and the number of fish. The One-Inch Rule is a useful way to decide on the number of fish:

**One Inch of Fish for Each Gallon of Water**

Using this rule, if your aquarium holds 15 gallons of water, it can hold up to a total of 15 inches of fish. For example, it could hold 5 fish that are each 3 inches long when full grown.

Although it’s fun to have many types of fish, many fish need different conditions. It might not be possible to keep them all healthy in the same aquarium. Some fish are more aggressive than others, and some fish prefer to travel in schools. Some easy fish to care for are listed below.

- **Guppies**—these swim in schools, so include at least four, but it’s better to have six or more.
- **Swordtails**—these fish are very attractive, but putting too many males in one aquarium may cause them to fight. Consider having only one male.
- **Platy fish**—a large variety of colors and sizes are available. They travel in schools, so include at least four, but it’s better to have six or more.
- **Betta fish**—these fish are beautiful, but male betas are very aggressive towards one another. You may want to provide plenty of hiding spots in your tank.
- **Danios**—another group of fast swimmers that are easy for beginners. They are good jumpers, so a tight lid is important
- **Tetras**—these fish are easy to care for and are stunning. They must travel in schools.

Other options could include plants to provide oxygen and hiding places for the tank. Snails will eat the algae that form on the side of the tank.
To begin setting up a freshwater aquarium, you will need to consider the following supplies:

- Determine the size of the tank you want to buy. Try to get one that holds at least 20 gallons if your budget allows.
- You may need an aquarium stand if there is no room for the aquarium on a strong table or bench.
- If you have fish that are good at jumping, then you need an aquarium hood.
- Fish need nighttime and daytime just like us. Be sure to have lights for the tank so the fish can know when it’s night and when it’s day.
- Fish need oxygen, so select a bubbler or purchase enough plants to oxygenate the tank.
- Many tropical fish need to stay warm, like the betta and platy fish, so select a heater.
- Many fish (ex: goldfish) don’t require a heater because they are considered cold water fish.
- Aquariums get dirty quickly. A water filter will keep the water clean and healthy.
- Fish do not like chlorine, so you will need to buy drops that make tap water safe for fish.
- Optional materials could include gravel for the bottom of the tank, decorations, or a backdrop.

These directions are not meant to be a complete list of instructions for beginners. Please consult an expert or a manual for more detailed information on setting up and maintaining your aquarium. Good luck in your new hobby!