

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Preview

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**D**on't be shy. *Koi* sounds the same as *coy*, but there is nothing coy about koi fish! Chances are you've seen these big, bright, colorful fish in ponds or on TV. They really stand out.

Koi look like big goldfish, but they aren't. Koi and goldfish are just cousins! They both belong to a fish family called carp. In fact, *koi* is like a nickname. Their full Japanese name is *nishikigoi* (NEE-shee-kee-GOY). It pretty much means *colorful carp* in English. Only special, brightly colored

Plain-colored carp started out in China. Then they came to Japan. They were mostly kept for food. Farmers and families kept the fish outside in ponds in case they needed more food during winter.

Sometime around the 1820s, Japanese families saw some carp were born with pretty patterns. That's when they began breeding the fish for patterns and colors. The koi was born!

Koi come in many colors. They

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started off as red, white, yellow, black, or blue. Many bred koi are no longer a single color. Different colors and patterns all have their own names. More recently, people have bred metallic koi. They are shiny gold or silver.

There are also butterfly koi. Butterfly koi can be any color, but they have very long fins. Some people think they are prettier.



**kohaku**

common white koi with red markings on top



**sanke**

white koi with red and black markings on top



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American Koi Judges Association has many shows a year.

How much a koi costs depends on its size, color, and pattern. Plain baby koi might be \$20. Bigger, prettier koi might be \$3,000. Show-quality koi are often at least \$10,000. The most expensive koi ever sold was about \$1.8 million!

If you want a koi pond, you should know most live at least 50 years. One even lived to 226! They are also cold-water fish, though they prefer



**butterfly koi**

any color koi with very long fins

water between 50–80°F (10–27°C). Make sure the water is at least 3 feet (1 meter) deep. Koi grow up to 3 feet (1 meter) long, and they need places to hide. Their eye-catching colors don't just catch human eyes. You don't want birds or foxes snatching them up.

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# The Not-Very-Coy Koi

By Olivia Mendoza

1. Where did the carp that became koi come from? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where were koi first bred? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why does the author call koi and goldfish cousins?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What disadvantage to bright coloring is mentioned in the article?



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6. Place a tancho, kohaku, or butterfly label to the picture matching the description.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



7. Which is *not* a reason people have enjoyed koi over time?
  - a. They need very little care.
  - b. They are a symbol of luck.
  - c. They are pretty colors.
  - d. They can be a food source.

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# The Not-Very-Coy Koi



Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the article. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. a \_ \_ \_ c t i o \_ \_ \_\_\_\_\_

**clue:** love, kindness, and caring

2. \_ \_ a l \_ \_ t y \_\_\_\_\_



## Preview

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**clue:** pretending to be shy

6. \_ s \_ o \_ \_ a t \_ \_ o n \_\_\_\_\_

**clue:** a group of people with a common interest

7. m \_ t a \_ \_ l \_ \_ \_ \_\_\_\_\_

**clue:** being similar to gold, silver, etc.

8. p \_ \_ \_ f e \_ \_ \_\_\_\_\_

**clue:** to want one thing over another

9. \_ i n \_ \_ l \_ \_ \_\_\_\_\_

**clue:** one

10. s \_ \_ m \_ \_ \_ l \_\_\_\_\_

**clue:** something that stands for something else

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# The Not-Very-Coy Koi

In the article, "The Not-Very-Coy Koi," you read about koi fish.

Think about what koi need to live. Would you be able to have a pet koi right now? Why or why not? Even if you can or could, would you want one? Use facts from the article to support your answer.

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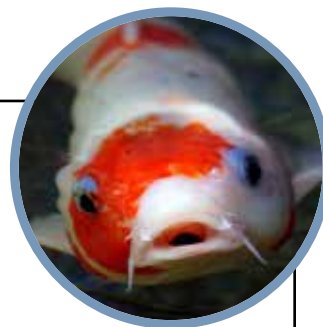
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## ANSWER KEY



# The Not-Very-Coy Koi

By Olivia Mendoza

1. Where did the carp that became koi come from?

China

2. Where were koi first bred?

Japan

3. Why does the author call koi and goldfish cousins?



kohaku

butterfly

tancho

7. Which is *not* a reason people have enjoyed koi over time?

**a. They need very little care.**

b. They are a symbol of luck.

c. They are pretty colors.

d. They can be a food source.

## ANSWER KEY

# The Not-Very-Coy Koi



Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the article. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. a f f e c t i o n

affection

**clue:** love, kindness, and caring

# Preview

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10. s y m b o l

symbol

**clue:** something that stands for something else