MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

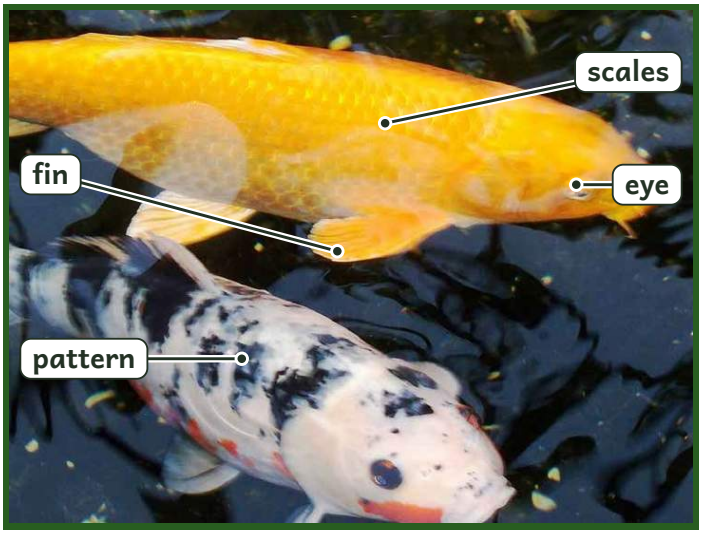
KOI

Cyprinus carpio

GRADES K–2

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · © 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.
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Teachers: read this page aloud, one part at a time (about 5 minutes). Children follow along and say the bold words.



Two koi in the pond.

Its body

A koi is a fish.
It has **scales** and fins.
It breathes with **gills**.
Koi come in many colors.

Its home (habitat)

People first raised koi in Japan.
Koi live in ponds.
You can see koi at our zoo.



First raised here ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

Its food

It eats bugs and worms.
It eats plants too.

Its babies (life cycle)

A koi starts as an egg.
The eggs stick to water plants.
Tiny young hatch in a few days.

Fun facts

A koi can live 25 to 30 years!
People raise koi for their beauty.

Words to know

gills: body parts that let a fish breathe in water
pattern: the shapes and colors on its body
scales: small hard plates on a fish

Talk about it

1. How does a koi breathe?
2. Where do koi eggs stick?
3. What colors can you see on these koi?

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/koi/ · **Sources:** Niigata Prefecture, nishikigoi history; FAO, Cultured Aquatic Species: common carp; USGS Fish Health Program; South Carolina DNR, fish anatomy
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: K-LS1-1 (3.1.K.A)
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KOI

Before and after your visit

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GRADES K–2

Name _____ **Date** _____

Before you visit · 5 minutes

What do you think? Circle **YES** or **NO**.

1. A koi is a fish. **YES** **NO**
2. All koi look the same. **YES** **NO**
3. Koi eggs stick to plants. **YES** **NO**
4. Koi live in the desert. **YES** **NO**

At the zoo · with a partner

Check each one you see.

- ☐ scales
- ☐ fins
- ☐ tail
- ☐ eyes
- ☐ pattern
- ☐ mouth

What is it doing? Circle one.

swimming · eating · resting

After your visit · 10 minutes

Draw a koi in a pond. Give it your own pattern.

Draw here

A koi has _____

I learned that _____

ADJUST IT Kindergarten: read everything aloud; children talk and draw, and an adult writes their words. **Grade 2:** children read page 1 on their own. **Grades 3–5:** use the regular koi sheet on Teacher Resources. **Second source:** read about this animal in your class database or a library book too, then ask what both said and what was new. **No zoo trip?** Check off what you can find in the photo on page 1. **Answers:** 1 yes, 2 no, 3 yes, 4 no.

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/koi/ · Page 1 of this sheet has the words and picture this page refers to.
Science, grades K–1: Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): K-LS1-1 · Pennsylvania (STEELS): 3.1.K.A
Reading and writing, grade 1: Maryland and Delaware: RI.1.1 · RI.1.7 · RI.1.9 · W.1.8 · Pennsylvania: CC.1.2.1.B · CC.1.2.1.G · CC.1.2.1.I · CC.1.4.1.W
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