



Introduction

Welcome to your Fishkeeper Fry: Respawned journey!

We're excited to welcome your Year 3 pupils to Fishkeeper Fry: Respawned, an 8-week programme designed to bring the classroom aquarium to life! Since your aquarium is already established from a previous year, your students can jump straight into hands-on learning while exploring the Fishkeeper Fry curriculum.

Over the course of the programme, students will:

- Develop an understanding of aquarium science, including water chemistry and fish biology.
- Learn essential fish care skills, from feeding to habitat maintenance
- Explore environmental responsibility, understanding the wider impact of aquatic life and conservation.

The programme encourages teacher and student creativity, giving you the freedom to adapt activities, design new challenges, or extend observations for your students. This approach allows pupils to learn through practical experience, observation, and enrichment activities, while you tailor the programme to your class's interests and pace. For inspiration and support, you can revisit the programme lessons.

8 Week Guide

Presented by

Week 1

Meet Our Aquarium



Key objectives

Understand the basic components of an aquariums and what fish need to survive. Learn how a classroom aquarium functions as a living ecosystem

Prior to the lesson

Ensure the classroom aquarium is clean, filled and running (filter, heater and light functioning)

Detail

- Watch the Fishkeeper Fry introduction video and the first video of the series, which can be found in the following link: <https://www.fishkeeper.co.uk/fishkeeper-fry-lessons>
- Take a guided 'tour' of the classroom aquarium- identify equipment (filter, heater, light, plants).
- Observe fish species in the tank and note colours, shapes, and movement. Use the Data-bank to look up key facts and features about these fish. (<https://www.fishkeeper.co.uk/data-bank>)
- Class discussion: 'What do our fish need to stay healthy?'

This Week's Tasks

Each student receives a copy of the weekly task sheet from previous year and answers the following questions:

- What types of aquariums are there?
- What type of fish do we have in our tank?
- Where should an aquarium be kept in a room?
- Why should you never tap on the glass?

Worksheet Idea

- Create your own aquarium and label parts of the aquarium you can see.
- Draw the fish you observe in the tank

Learning Outcome

Students will be able to indentify the key components of an aquarium and understand the basic needs of the fish need to survive.

Week 2

Water and Nitrogen Cycle



Key objectives

Recognise that healthy water depends on beneficial bacterial and chemical balance.

Understand the role of the nitrogen cycle in maintaining a healthy aquarium.

Prior to the lesson

- Ensure test kits and materials are ready for safe, teacher-led water testing.
- Prepare a small jar with a portion of fish food for overnight testing

Detail

- Watch the water testing video from the original Fishkeeper Fry series, which can be found in the following link: <https://www.fishkeeper.co.uk/fishkeeper-fry-lessons>
- Test the aquarium water using safe test kits (teacher-led)
- Discuss the results of the test:
 - What do the readings tell us about the health of the fish?
 - How might the water conditions affect the fish in the aquarium?
- Class discussion: 'What do our fish need to stay healthy?'
- Overnight activity: Leave a small quantity of fish food in a jar of water overnight and test the water the following day to look for pollution.

Worksheet Idea

- What's in our water? - Draw or match what bacteria, ammonia and nitrates are in the aquarium
- Complete previous years week 2 worksheets

Learning Outcome

Pupils will understand that clean, balanced water is essential for fish health and that beneficial bacteria play a key role in keeping the aquarium safe.

Additional reading into water quality and the nitrogen cycle:

<https://www.fishkeeper.co.uk/stories/beyond-the-basics>

<https://www.fishkeeper.co.uk/stories/freshwater-aquarium-water-quality>

<https://www.fishkeeper.co.uk/stories/why-test-my-aquarium-or-pond-water>



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Week 3

Fish Health and Behaviour



Key objectives

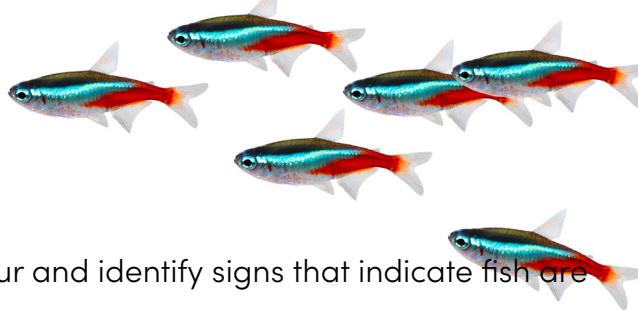
Identify normal fish behaviours and understand the signs of healthy fish. Develop observation skills and empathy through regular monitoring of the aquarium.

Prior to the lesson

- Ensure the students understand how to observe fish quietly and calmly without disturbing them.
- Prepare copies of the Fish Watch Journal worksheet for daily use.

Detail

- Daily observation
 - Observe the fish for 10 minutes each day over the course of the week.
 - Watch how the fish move, eat, and rest.
- Record Findings
 - Use the 'Fish Watch Journal' to record daily observations of fish activity and behaviour.
- Compare behaviours
 - Identify differences in behaviour between different types of fish in the tank.
- Class discussion
 - What does good fish health look like?
 - What behaviours might suggest stress or illness?
- Health awareness
 - Review content on the Fishkeeper website about common fish diseases and signs of poor health.



Worksheet Idea

- Fish Watch Journal worksheet
- Complete copies of previous years worksheets

Learning Outcome

Students will be able to recognise normal fish behaviour and identify signs that indicate fish are healthy and thriving in their aquarium environment.

Additional reading into fish health

<https://www.fishkeeper.co.uk/stories/fish-health>

<https://www.fishkeeper.co.uk/stories/diseases-in-fish-bacterial-infections>

<https://www.fishkeeper.co.uk/stories/diseases-in-fish-fungal-infections>



Week 4

Feeding and Nutrition

Key objectives

Understand how diet and nutrition affect fish health and growth. Learn about feeding behaviour, food types, and portion control.

Prior to the lesson

- Prepare images of different fish food types for observation (flakes, pellets, frozen).
- Ensure feeding is carried out carefully and in appropriate portions.

Detail

- Watch the feeding video from the main Fishkeeper Fry series, which can be found in the following link: <https://www.fishkeeper.co.uk/fishkeeper-fry-lessons>
- Observe a feeding session:
 - Watch how different fish eat.
 - Note where in the tank fish feed (surface, mid-water, bottom).
- Compare food types:
 - Look at flakes, pellets, and frozen foods.
 - Discuss which fish might prefer or need each type
- Class discussion:
 - Why is it important not to overfeed fish?
 - How does food choice affect fish health?



Worksheet Idea

- Complete worksheets from previous years. These can be found in the lessons link above.
- Design a simple feeding schedule
- Draw and label different types of fish food

Learning Outcome

Students will understand what fish eat, how feeding behaviour differs between species, and why correct portions and balanced diets are important for healthy fish.

Additional reading into feeding your fish

<https://www.fishkeeper.co.uk/fish-feeding-guides>

Week 5

Our Aquarium Ecosystem



Key objectives

Understand the aquarium as a balanced ecosystem and recognise the interdependence between fish, plants, bacteria, and people.

Prior to the lesson

- Ensure live plants are present in the aquarium or available for observation.
- Prepare materials for the plant and water experiments (jars, light source, plants).

Detail

- Explore plant roles:
 - Discuss how plants help oxygenate the water and remove waste. Which can be found on week 5 lessons <https://www.fishkeeper.co.uk/fishkeeper-fry-lessons>
- Create an aquarium mind map:
 - Link fish, plants, bacteria, and people to show how they depend on each other.
- Mini experiment – plants and light (teacher-led)
 - Observe bubbles produced by plants under bright light compared to shade.
- Water comparison experiment:
 - Fill two jars with aquarium water and place both on a bright windowsill.
 - Add aquarium plants to one jar and leave the other without plants.
 - After one week, test the water and compare any differences.

Worksheet Idea

- Life in Our Tank - Create a labelled diagram showing how everything in the aquarium works together.
- Complete worksheets from week 6 lesson (<https://www.fishkeeper.co.uk/fishkeeper-fry-lessons>)

Learning Outcome

Pupils will understand how living and non-living elements in the aquarium depend on one another to create a healthy, balanced ecosystem.

Additional reading into feeding your fish

<https://www.fishkeeper.co.uk/carrying-out-water-change-and-adding-more-fish>



Week 6

Caring for living things



Key objectives

Recognise the responsibility when caring for living things and understand the importance of regular, responsible fish care.

Prior to the lesson

- Prepare examples of daily, weekly, and monthly aquarium care routines for discussion.

Detail

- Care routines discussion:
 - Explore daily, weekly, and monthly tasks involved in fish care.
- Create a 'Fishkeeper's Code'
 - Work as a class to agree on good fishkeeping practices.
- Compare responsibility
 - Discuss how caring for fish is similar to caring for other pets or wildlife.
- Ethical care discussion:
 - What does it mean to care for animals responsibly?

Worksheet Idea

- Our Fishkeeper Promise- Students are to create a list or draw five ways they can help care for the fish in the aquarium

Learning Outcome

Pupils will understand their responsibility in caring for living things and recognise the importance of consistent, ethical care for fish.

Additional reading into feeding your fish

<https://www.fishkeeper.co.uk/stories/caring-for-your-tropical-fish-and-invertebrates>

<https://www.fishkeeper.co.uk/larger-fish-and-holiday-care>

<https://www.fishkeeper.co.uk/stories/caring-for-your-fish-while-you-are-away>



Week 7

The Science of Observation



Key objectives

Apply scientific methods to the classroom aquarium by observing, recording, and analysing fish behaviour. Develop skills in investigation and data presentation.

Prior to the lesson

- Prepare materials for recording observations (journals, paper, rulers, graph paper).
- Ensure the aquarium environment is ready for safe observation.

Detail

- Design an investigation:
 - Choose one question to explore, for example:
 - Do fish behave differently at feeding time?
 - Which area of the tank do fish prefer?
 - How do fish respond to changes in light?
- Record observations
 - Watch the fish and note behaviour carefully.
 - Collect data over several sessions if possible.
- Analyse results
 - Draw graphs, bar charts, or diagrams to represent findings.
- Class discussion:
 - Compare results and discuss what the data shows about fish behaviour.



Worksheet Idea

- 'Our Fishkeeping Experiment' – Students complete sections for method, results, and conclusion.

Learning Outcome

Pupils will develop scientific thinking by planning an experiment, recording observations, analysing results, and drawing conclusions from real-world fishkeeping experiences

Week 8

Celebration and reflection



Key objectives

Summarise learning, reflect on achievements, and develop communication skills by sharing knowledge about the classroom aquarium.

Prior to the lesson

- Prepare materials for presentations (poster paper, video equipment, or scrapbook supplies).
- Organise certificates or recognition items for celebration.

Detail

- Present findings:
 - Pupils share their observations, experiments, or reports with parents, another class, or the school.
- Create a class record:
 - Make a scrapbook or short video titled 'Our Fishkeeping Journey' to capture the learning process.
- Celebrate achievements:
 - Display certificates, photos, and pupil work to recognise effort and progress.

Worksheet Idea

- 'My Fishkeeper Achievement':
 - Pupils reflect on:
 - What they have learned
 - What they enjoyed most
 - How they will care for animals in the future

Learning Outcome

Students summarise their understanding of responsible fishkeeping, and reflect on the skills and knowledge they can carry forward.