

## The Shocking Truth About Betta Fish

**Directions: Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.**

1. Bettas are beautiful and unusual-looking fish. The ones we're most familiar with have brightly colored bodies and long, flowing fins. Like all fish, they are happiest when they're free and living in their natural habitat.

2. But not all bettas are lucky enough to have their freedom. Pet stores like Petco sell them as "low-maintenance" pets to people who often don't know how to take care of them and don't realize how much they can suffer.

3. Before being shipped to pet stores, bettas are put in tiny plastic bags that are too small and cold and contain very little water, and then the bags are stuffed into cardboard boxes. As terrifying as this sounds for the fish, it is a very common practice in the pet trade.

4. In nature, bettas live in Asia, in the shallow water of rice fields, marshes, ponds, or slow-moving streams. Since the water isn't deep, it stays warm—that's why bettas in captivity need an aquarium with water that's just the right temperature.

5. Their aquariums also need to be clean and roomy. And because betta fish are intelligent, they also need interesting objects like sanded driftwood, rocks, caves, and live plants to hide in, play with, and explore. Also, not all bettas have to live alone, as some people think. Female bettas can live together, and males can live with other species of fish.

6. It's easy to help betta fish. Never buy them from pet stores like Petco. You can also ask your family and friends not to buy them, either.



Bettas live in the shallow water of rice fields, marshes, ponds, and slow-moving streams in Asia.

## Comprehension Questions: The Shocking Truth About Betta Fish

### Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences

**1. Paragraphs 4 and 5 explain to the reader that betta fish ...**

- a. can survive in most habitats.
- b. require a great amount of special care.
- c. are good pets for young children.
- d. enjoy cooler climates.

**2. Which of the following supports the conclusion that betta fish are misunderstood by humans?**

- a. Betta fish are beautiful and unusual-looking.
- b. Pet stores like Petco sell betta fish as “low-maintenance” pets to people who often don’t know how to take care of them and don’t realize how much they can suffer.
- c. In nature, bettas live in Asia, where their homes are the shallow water of rice fields, marshes, ponds, or slow-moving streams.
- d. It’s easy to help betta fish.

**3. What is the most likely reason why betta fish who live in captivity need things like driftwood, rocks, caves, and live plants to hide in, play with, and explore?**

- a. Because they are intelligent and they need things to do.
- b. Because they need to be protected from predators.
- c. Because they want to make their aquariums look nice for the humans looking at them.
- d. Because they need to have cool aquarium water.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Comprehension Questions: The Shocking Truth About Betta Fish

### Main Idea

#### 1. What is the main idea of paragraph 3?

- a. Betta fish are happiest in their natural habitat.
- b. Betta fish who live in captivity have special needs.
- c. It is common for betta fish to be mistreated in the pet trade.
- d. People can help betta fish by never buying them from pet stores like Petco.

#### 2. What question is answered in paragraph 6?

- a. Who buys betta fish from pet stores?
- b. When is the best time to buy a betta fish?
- c. Where is the betta fish's natural habitat?
- d. How can people help betta fish?

#### 3. Which paragraph explains what happens to betta fish before they're sold in the pet trade?

- a. 3
- b. 4
- c. 5
- d. 6

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## Comprehension Questions: The Shocking Truth About Betta Fish

### Author's Purpose

#### 1. The author wrote this article to ...

- a. entertain the reader with stories about betta fish in the wild.
- b. persuade the reader to visit Asia.
- c. inform the reader about the problems with selling betta fish as pets.
- d. explain the reasons why betta fish make good pets.

#### 2. What other reason could the author have had for writing this article?

- a. To teach readers about the different types of aquariums available in pet stores.
- b. To persuade readers never to buy betta fish from pet stores.
- c. To amuse the reader with a story about a boy and his betta fish.
- d. To describe the physical characteristics of betta fish.

#### 3. This article would be most useful to students who want to ...

- a. write a report about the natural behavior of betta fish in nature.
- b. encourage their parents not to buy betta fish from pet stores.
- c. give a presentation to their classmates about all the ways animals suffer in the pet trade.
- d. learn more about the shallow water of rice fields, marshes, ponds, or slow-moving streams in Asia.

# **Answer Key: The Shocking Truth About Betta Fish**

## **Comprehension Questions: Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences**

1. b
2. b
3. a

## **Comprehension Questions: Main Idea**

1. c
2. d
3. a

## **Comprehension Questions: Author's Purpose**

1. c
2. b
3. b