Tropical Fish

Are you interested in tropical fish? Do you own tropical fish or would you like to? Do you want to know all you can about keeping your tropical fish healthy? Do you want to get the most out of your pet experience? This Tropical Fish project is for you!

Objective
To educate 4-H members about tropical fish. You will learn about breed characteristics, anatomy, health, identification, and behavior of fish. The project is designed to teach you about how to care for tropical fish in your home as it focuses on aquarium management, including set up (plants, temperature, pH levels, gravel), maintenance, and cleaning of the tank. You will also learn about nutrition and expenses associated with owning tropical fish.

Materials included in this project
- Record book 4H 300 B-24
- New Mexico 4-H Greentop 400.B-26
- Tropical Fish, Publication 4-H 280

Suggestions for Completing the Project
- Review the project book, record sheet, and Greentop to become familiar with the project before you begin
- Review needed materials: Tropical fish (at least 3), aquarium, water, aquatic plants, gravel/sand, pump and other accessories if needed or desired, commercial fish food, catch net
- Choose the areas about the tropical fishy in which you wish to study
- Keep a log or diary of the activities you participate in which are related to those areas. This will make it easier to complete your record sheet at the end of the 4-H year.
- Complete your record sheet for the project
To complete this project, you can
- Learn about the anatomy of fish and how they are different from other aquatic animals
- Learn about the different breeds of fish and their characteristics
- Learn about common fish diseases
- Show your fish at a local or county fair pet show
- Keep records of the expenses associated with having a tropical fish
- Learn about aquarium management
- Learn to catch and handle your pet fish
- Learn about the equipment available and necessary to have a healthy tropical fish
- Learn about proper nutrition of a fish
- Learn about factors affecting fish in the wild
- Build your own fish net

What can be exhibited with the tropical fish project?
- Your tropical fish in the county fair or pet show
- Posters-photo journal of your pet, parts of a fish, forms of fish tails, aquarium management, diseases, aquatic plant species for aquariums,

If you enjoy this project, and want continue to learn about tropical fish, you can try
- Cooking-prepare fish recipes
- Photography-taking beautiful photos of your pet fish
- Art-draw pictures or paint about tropical fish
- Citizenship-help others clean their aquariums
- Leadership-help a friend set up an aquarium or give a presentation/demonstration at your club meeting (aquarium management, nutrition, transportation of fish)

If you enjoy this project, here are some other great projects you might like...
- Pocket pets
- Guinea Pigs
- Hamsters
- Small Pets
- Wildlife
- Veterinary Science

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