

How do fish breathe? Try this simple experiment!

Fish need oxygen, just like us! Instead of having lungs, fish have gills that they use to breathe and take oxygen out of the water. How do gills work? Find out by doing this simple experiment with your kids!



What you need:

- Two clear glasses, cups or jars. (One is 1/4 full of water)
- Rubber band
- Coffee filters (you can also use paper towel)
- One scoop of coffee grounds (dirt works too, if you aren't a coffee drinker!)
- Measuring cup filled with water



What to do:

1. Pretend the dirt or coffee grounds represents oxygen. Have your child sprinkle some dirt in one glass of the water. You can now “see” the oxygen in the water! In real life, we can't see oxygen as it is a gas, though it is all around us and dissolved in the water.
2. Next, take the second glass of water and secure a coffee filter or paper towel over the opening with a rubber band. Push down the coffee filter so it is loose over the top. This represents fish gills.
3. Next take your “oxygen” filled cup, and *slowly* pour the water over the coffee filter or paper towel.
4. What happens? You will see the coffee filter or paper towel catches most of the dirt or coffee grounds that represent the oxygen.
5. This is how fish breathe! They use their gills to filter oxygen out of the water.

Tune in to Como Live on Facebook this afternoon for a SPECIAL Como Live at 1:30pm! We will read one of our “Dear Como” letters to the koi!

