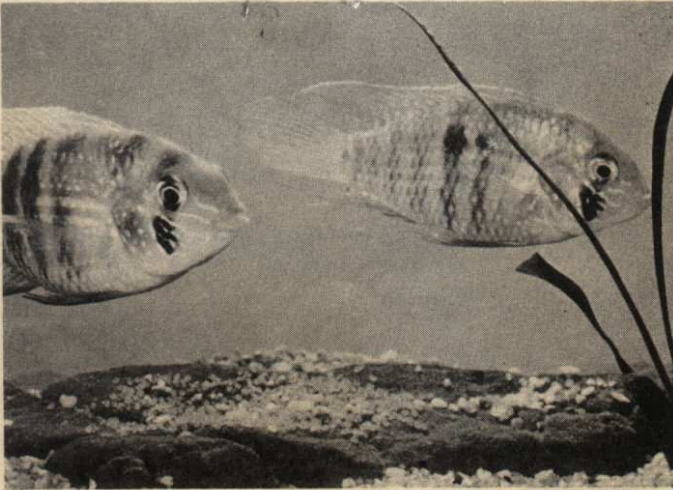


#2188

A FISH FAMILY



Grade Level: Primary

Time: 11 minutes

CONTENTS

Watching fish in an aquarium is not only fun, it is rich in learning experience. A pair of Blue Acaras is the subject of observation; the main point of interest is their family life. These small exotic fish of the Cichlid family come from the fresh waters of Panama and Colombia. Among aquarium fishes the Blue Acaras are famous for the care of their young.

The complete cycle of raising a family covers nearly a month in the life of the Blue Acaras, but condensed into a few minutes on film, the pictures tell an extraordinary and delightful story. The devotion, teamwork, and mutual relationships that go to make up a family of fish are so vividly portrayed that they seem to suggest an ideal human family. In such a strong setting of family security, the reproduction sequence fits easily and naturally into its proper place. The cycle includes:

1. Preparation of nest
2. Laying the eggs
3. Fertilization
4. Care during incubation
5. Digging nurseries.
6. Transporting hatchlings to nurseries
7. Guarding the young

MORAL AND SPIRITUAL VALUES

The courage, faithfulness and devotion of the parent fish and the obedience of the young ones demonstrate very graphically the importance of these God-given things, when put into action, in making a happy family.

VOCABULARY

Science: propeller
 balancing
 fertile

Social Studies: obedience
 devotion

USING THE FILM

1. *Elementary Science.* We can learn many important things by watching the living things around us. Careful observation shows how perfectly the fish is made to suit its watery world. If we look for the "why," all the actions of the fish have meaning and significance and tell the story of its life functions.
2. *Social Studies.* Watching the well-coordinated activities of a fish family provides a natural and simple way to teach the individual's share in creating a happy family life, and the importance of teamwork, personal responsibility, and care of others in building a secure society.
3. *Reproduction.* The first and most important aspect of presenting reproduction to young children is the emphasis and value to be attached to it. As part of the delightful story of a family of fish, reproduction is seen not only as a natural and acceptable life function, but as one of the many bonds that build unity, strength, harmony and happiness in the family group.

BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR FURTHER STUDY

"Exotic Aquarium Fishes," by Wm. T. Innes, Innes Publishing Company, Philadelphia, U.S.A. (14th. Ed.) *The Cichlids*, pp. 407-415; *Aequidens latifrons* (Blue Acara), p. 439.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Does the fish breathe in the water?
2. How does his tail help him move? His fins?
3. Will all kinds of fish live together peaceably?
4. How do the Blue Acaras get ready for their family?
5. Why are they so careful to make the nest clean?
6. Describe how the eggs are laid.
7. Tell what the parents do to care for the eggs.
8. What would happen if the eggs were left unguarded?
9. Do you think the parents were devoted to their babies? Why?
10. How did the baby fish show their obedience to the parents?
11. What was the most interesting thing you learned from the story?

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For further information regarding these films write:

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