

# How Fish Breathe Activity

**Goal:** To understand how fish breathe under water.

## Supplies:

- 2 glass jars – one small, one large
- Coffee filter
- Rubber band
- 1 cup of water
- 2 tablespoons of ground coffee
- Spoon



## Instructions:

- 1) Take your smaller glass jar, open the lid and add about 2 tablespoons of the ground coffee.
- 2) Add about  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of your water to the coffee grounds, then stir with a spoon to mix thoroughly.
- 3) Take your larger glass jar and place the coffee filter on top facing downward. Then, slightly push down on the coffee filter so that it slightly dips in to form a small bowl-shape inside the top of the jar. Place your rubber band around the top of the jar to hold the filter tightly in place.
- 4) Take your coffee-water mixture and slowly pour in over the top of the coffee filter and watch as the water runs through the filter.
- 5) Take a minute to write your observations (space on next page).



**What do you observe in the jar?**

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**What do you observe being left behind on the filter?**

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**Draw lines to match the correct answers for the blanks**

In this experiment, the \_\_\_\_\_ represents the \_\_\_\_\_.

Jar
Filter
Coffee Water

Gills
Ocean Water
Fish

**Gills are a very thin tissue that act like a filter. They remove \_\_\_\_\_ from the water and release \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a) Carbon Dioxide, Oxygen
- b) Oxygen, Hydrogen
- c) Hydrogen, Carbon Dioxide
- d) Oxygen, Carbon Dioxide

**The gills pull oxygen out of the water and distribute it throughout the fishes' \_\_\_\_\_ system.**

- a) Respiratory
- b) Circulatory
- c) Digestive
- d) Nervous

