

# DO FISH FEEL THIRSTY?

Do fish feel thirsty?

Fish are surrounded by water all the time, but do they feel thirsty?



Fish regulate the amount of water in their body by a process called osmoregulation. They use their kidneys and gills to manage salt and water levels.

This simple gummy bear investigation shows how water enters a freshwater fish through the gills and skin by osmosis.

## GUMMY BEAR INVESTIGATION

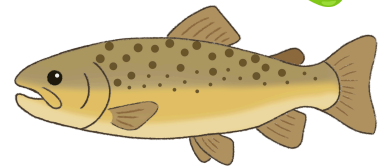
### You'll need

Several gummy bears or other gummy sweets.

Water

Salt

Two containers



The gummy bear represents a fish. The outside represents the semi-permeable skin of a fish, and the inside represents the inside of the fish. Placing a gummy bear in plain water shows what would happen to a freshwater fish if it didn't regulate the amount of water entering its body. Placing the swollen gummy bear into salty water shows what would happen if you put a saltwater fish into the sea.

## Instructions

Half fill both containers with plain water.

Add salt to the second container until it's hard to dissolve any more.

Place a gummy bear in the plain water container for a few hours. It should increase in size.

Carefully place the swollen gummy bear in the salty water and leave for a few hours. This time, you should find the gummy bear shrinks.