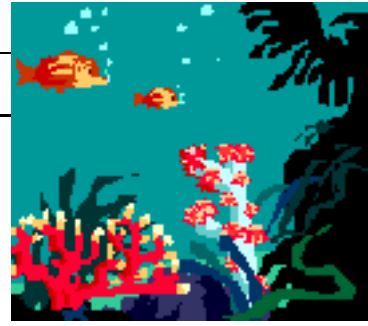


# Ecosystems



## Shipment #1

guppies  
pond snails  
elodea  
duckweed  
algae

## Shipment #2

crickets  
isopods

### **ADVANCED PREPARATION NEEDED**

Age water (24-72 hours)

### Fish/water snails:

- Use distilled or treated water. If using conditioning drops, be sure to use the correct amount of chlorine remover (read the bottle).
- The water temperature should be approximately room temperature prior to adding the fish. Extremes in temperature can cause loss.
- Add fish gradually to the aquarium. Float baggie in the aquarium 10-15 minutes then open baggies allowing a small amount of tank water to enter the bag. Let the bag float in aquarium and allow the fish to swim out on their own.
- Do not overfeed. A small pinch of food is a start. You can always add more if all of the food is eaten. If any food makes it to the bottom you are probably over feeding.
- Do not overcrowd the tank.
- Snails will feed on algae or decaying plant matter naturally found in the aquarium.
- <http://lhsfoss.org/fossweb/teachers/materials/plantanimal/goldfish.html> (excellent background information and the do's and do not's on fish)

### Pill/Sow bugs (isopods):

- Need a moist environment (moist soil, decomposing leaves, etc.)
- Place immediately into the habitat after receiving
- A small potato, carrot, or apple slice will provide nutrition and moisture.
- <http://lhsfoss.org/fossweb/teachers/materials/plantanimal/isopods.html>

### Duckweed:

- Hardy and easy to maintain.
- Needs surface area for a single layer on the water's surface (in a holding tank) prior to usage.

### **Crickets:**

- Need a moist environment but watch for fungus and mold. It is deadly to crickets.
- Need hiding places. An egg carton, crumpled paper towel, or a pile of twigs serves this purpose very well.
- Bird seed is a good source of dry food and a small piece of fresh fruit or vegetable will give them the moisture they need.
- They need a warm place but not direct sunlight.

### **Elodea and Algae:**

- Very easy to maintain.
- Place in water and provide bright light or artificial light until ready to use.