

## Learning to Swim

Summer was finally here. No school, spend the night parties, and long, lazy days just hanging out with friends made this time of year a sheer delight. But for Tammy it was always filled with one problem: she did not know how to swim. She was going to be a second grader next year. All her friends had been swimming for a long time. But Tammy was so afraid of putting her head under the water and holding her breath. Every time someone had a pool party, she just said she was not feeling well or was not available to come over. Her mom had not pushed Tammy, but now it was time to learn how to swim.

Tammy knew it was important to be confident in the water. This year her mom decided to get Tammy private lessons. She would be the only one in the class. That seemed to be OK with Tammy. She was a little nervous before her first lesson but still got in the car and was ready to learn.

Miss Kasey was giving swim lessons in her pool this summer. Tammy loved Miss Kasey. She was her favorite babysitter. Miss Kasey first held Tammy's hand and walked with her around in the water, so Tammy would feel comfortable in the pool. They laughed and talked together to ease Tammy's anxiety. Next Tammy held on to the side of the pool and kicked her legs. Miss Kasey then told Tammy to blow bubbles in the water. She wanted Tammy to get used to getting her face wet. They played games to make it fun.

Next Miss Kasey encouraged Tammy to put more and more of her face in the water. Soon she was holding her breath and staying under for five seconds.

Tammy was excited that swimming was really going to be fun. At her second lesson Miss Kasey supported Tammy around her waist while she showed her how to kick with her legs and move her arms through the water. Once Tammy felt comfortable, Miss Kasey stepped back and told Tammy to swim to her. Tammy put her face in the water, held her breath, and pushed away from the side of the pool. Tammy was swimming! Next Tammy jumped in and swam to Miss Kasey.

After two weeks Tammy was swimming like a pro. She had gained the confidence she needed and was no longer afraid. "Mom, Sarah invited me over to swim. May I go?" Mom smiled and gave her daughter a big hug. Patience and step-by-step lessons prove to be the winning combination for Tammy.



Put the events from the story in the correct sequence (1, 2, 3). One event did not happen, and label it X.

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| _____ | Tammy jumped in the pool and swam to Miss Kasey.      |
| _____ | Blowing bubbles in the water helped to ease her fear. |
| _____ | Tammy was afraid to go under the water.               |
| _____ | Tammy took lessons with her friends.                  |

Circle the correct answer.

1 The word private in this story means:

- A Secret
- B Individual
- C Confident

2 How did Tammy's friends know she was afraid of the water?

- A They did not know she could not swim.
- B She told them she was afraid of the water.
- C She cried when she was asked to a pool party.

3 What did Miss Kasey do first at the swim lessons?

- A Teach Tammy to blow bubbles in the water
- B Walk with Tammy in the water
- C Had Tammy kick her legs in the water



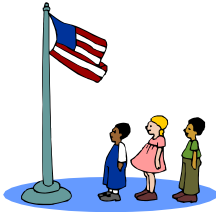


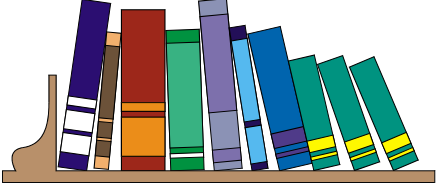
4 The word pro is short for:

- A Protect
- B Professional
- C Provide

5 From the story you can tell:

- A Tammy is ready to go to swim parties.
- B Tammy will probably not go to swim parties for a while.
- C Miss Kasey will be Tammy's second grade teacher.

Write the correct word in the box.

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p>library<br/>route</p>  | <p>fever<br/>pledge</p>   | <p>piano<br/>compare</p>  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

|   |                          |                        |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <p>fever<br/>today</p>  | <p>mileage<br/>route</p> | <p>map<br/>compare</p> |
| <p>1 Dad looked at a _____ to find the fastest _____ home.</p> <p>2 Sarah did not go to school _____ because she had a _____.</p> <p>3 _____ the two cars to see which one gets the best gas _____.</p> |                          |                        |

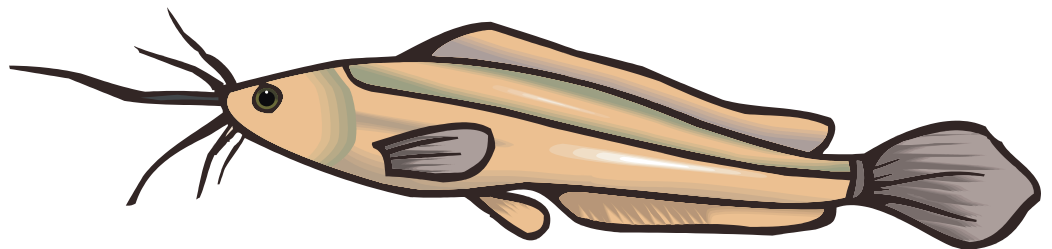
Have you ever heard of a fish that could walk and breathe air? Actually there is a type of catfish found mainly in **Southeast Asia** called a walking catfish. It can really move or walk across dry land. It uses its fins to keep itself upright and makes a sort of wiggling motion that reminds you of a snake. It can stay out of water as long as it stays moist. It can be found in very still pond waters, **swamps**, streams, and rivers. If its home should dry up, its ability to walk really comes in handy when it needs to find another source of water.

A walking catfish is about a foot long. It does not have scales like most fish but is covered with slimy **mucus** that protects this fish when it is out of water. It prefers the warm, tropical waters of **Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, and Singapore**. But it can also be found now in Florida, California, and Georgia.

In fact, a **school** of about thirty walking catfish were spotted in Florida “walking down the street.” This was probably a very strange sight for the people who saw them. Heavy rains the night before had forced these fish out of the **sewers** and into the streets. Residents of Pinellas County in Florida watched in amazement as these funny fish moved along the street using their fins.

Farmers who raise fish for a business need to be careful of the walking catfish as it preys on other fish for food. They eat very fast and can consume quite a large amount of small **marine** animals and **aquatic** weeds.

This freshwater fish is very different from most fish we see. What would you do if you ever saw a walking catfish?



Put M on the blank for the main idea. One choice is only a fact from the story, so put N on the blank for too narrow. Another choice will be false, and label it with an X.

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| _____ | Walking catfish can be found all over the world.                   |
| _____ | Protective mucus allows this funny fish to live out of the water.  |
| _____ | Walking catfish move with their fins and are able to live on land. |