



Low-key Loaches



Loaches are cool bottom feeding fish. Some types are from Malaysia, Borneo and Sumatra. While other "true" loaches are from Eurasia and Morocco. Most loaches like freshwater streams or muddy ponds. Some loaches have sucking discs that they can use to hang on to rocks, and eat food. They have downward facing mouths with barbels to suit their benthic lifestyle.

Loaches are mostly scavengers and omnivores. They will eat algae, detritus and anything else they find on the bottom. Their barbels help them search out food. Many loaches like to eat small worms and insects as well.

Loaches come in all sizes, shapes and colors. Many are only a few inches long, but some can get quite big! Their shapes



range from almost snake like, to very much like a long pyramid. Each type of loach has its own color pattern to help them blend in with their surroundings. This camouflage keeps them safe from predators.

The names of loaches are just as unique as the fish themselves. There are clown loaches, dojo loaches... then there are horseface, skunk, kuhlii, yoyo, zebra, Bengal, hillstream, weather loaches and even more! Pollution can really harm these loaches, so it is important that we protect the ponds where they live.

Create a dough loach!

Try This!

What you will need:

- 1 cup salt
- 4 cups flour
- 1 1/2 cups water
- food coloring

1. Mix ingredients and knead to form a dough.
2. Use your new clay to make loaches, their habitat and more.
3. Have an adult bake them at 200' until they are hard.
4. Let them cool and then paint your loach!

Lounging Loaches

Loaches make a great addition to a community tank. Because they are not picky eaters, they are like the vacuum cleaners of your tank! They will cruise the bottom looking for a yummy morsel.

With all the shapes, sizes and colors of loaches, you will be sure to find the coolest loach to fit in with your fishy friends. Their bottom feeding antics will entertain you for years,

