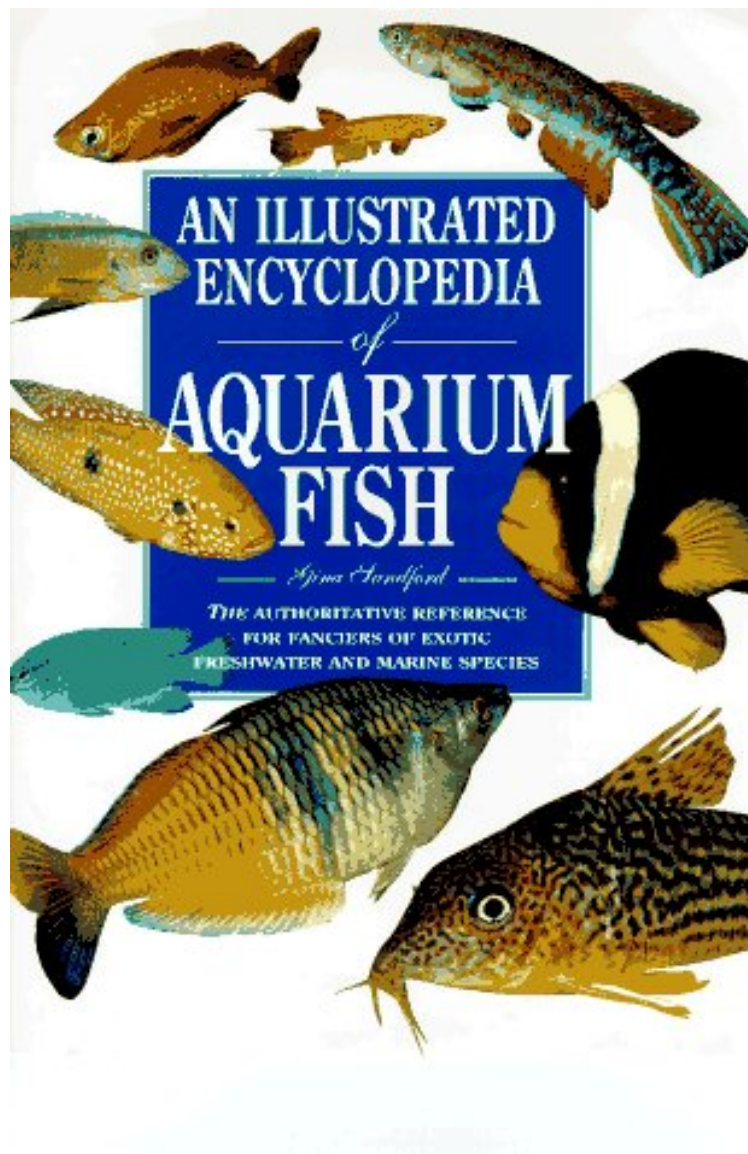


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An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Aquarium Fish: The Authoritative Reference for Fanciers of Exotic...

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Hobbyists of all ages need look no further than this lavishly illustrated book, which is the perfect introduction to the fascinating world of exotic aquarium fish. Many of the 700 species included are among the most sought-after by aquarists yet are often ignored in other books.Concise yet authoritative information about each freshwater and marine fish includes family, scientific, and common name, distribution, size, food, temperature range, and pH and dH requirements. In addition, Gina Sandford suggests how to design the ideal, environmentally suitable tank and stock it with beautiful and unusual species. She offers advice on how to set up the right filtration, lighting, and heating systems.Fishkeeping is a challenge from the outset, and An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Aquarium Fish gives aquarists the means to meet that challenge and enable their stock to thrive.

From BooklistJudging from the number of books available, keeping fish is a popular hobby. In RBB alone, five books have been reviewed in the last four years. Thus, this latest entry needed a unique approach: the author concentrates on the more exotic species of fish suitable for aquariums. In addition, she stresses the importance of breeding, since the habitats of many fish are being destroyed at a rapid rate.The introduction encourages aquarists to consider keeping some species that they might not have previously considered or heard of before. This is followed by a brief explanation of fish biology, aquatic environments, tanks, filtration, heating, tank decoration, feeding, breeding, and problems. The remainder of the work covers freshwater and marine fish. Each entry includes family, common name, distribution, size, food, temperature, pH and dH (hardness of water), a brief paragraph describing the fish, a sentence on breeding, and tank setup. A color picture accompanies each fish described. The work concludes with an index of scientific names and one of common names divided by type, such as angelfish, catfish, and tetra.Although many of the fish listed in the work are rare or unique, many standards such as the neon tetra are listed, too. More details on setting up and maintaining an aquarium might be needed for the beginner, but entries on fish describe them as easy to keep or for the experienced aquarist only. This beautifully done volume provides a tremendous amount of information for the aquarist. Although much of the information can be found in other works, the attractive organization and the ease of finding specific facts make this an ideal purchase for a library needing works on exotic species or breeding fish. About the AuthorGina Sanford is a well-known and highly regarded author on aquarium care.