

DATA *Nugget*

Close Reading: Check for Understanding **Why so blue? The determinants of color pattern in killifish**

Directions: Read the research background in the Data Nugget. Then answer the following questions. Be prepared to discuss your answers in a small group.

1. Why do animals come in so many different colors?
2. What is color polymorphism? Give an example of this phenomenon.
3. What were Becky's observations about the frequency of each color in the two different habitats?
4. Consider why color polymorphism may exist in the blue fin killifish? How could color variation be beneficial in some environments? Why would certain colors be a disadvantage?
5. Look at Becky's experimental design. Why did she choose to use a certain type of tea to color the water brown? Why did she make sure the tea had no caffeine, sugar or lemon?