

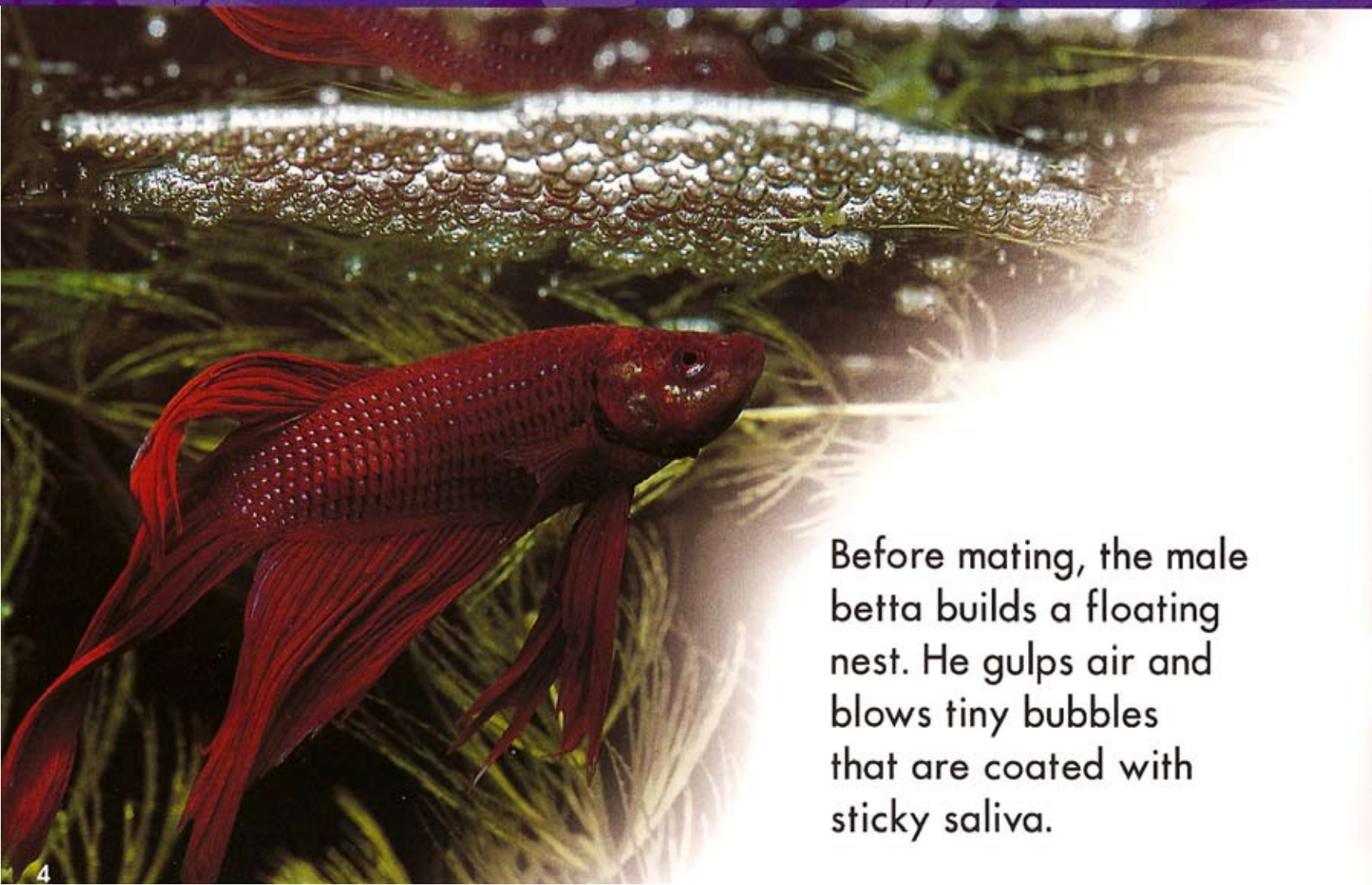
- This colorful fish looks as if it fell in a bucket of red paint! It is a Siamese fighting fish, or betta. Male bettas come in many bright colors, and their colors grow even brighter when the fish are excited.



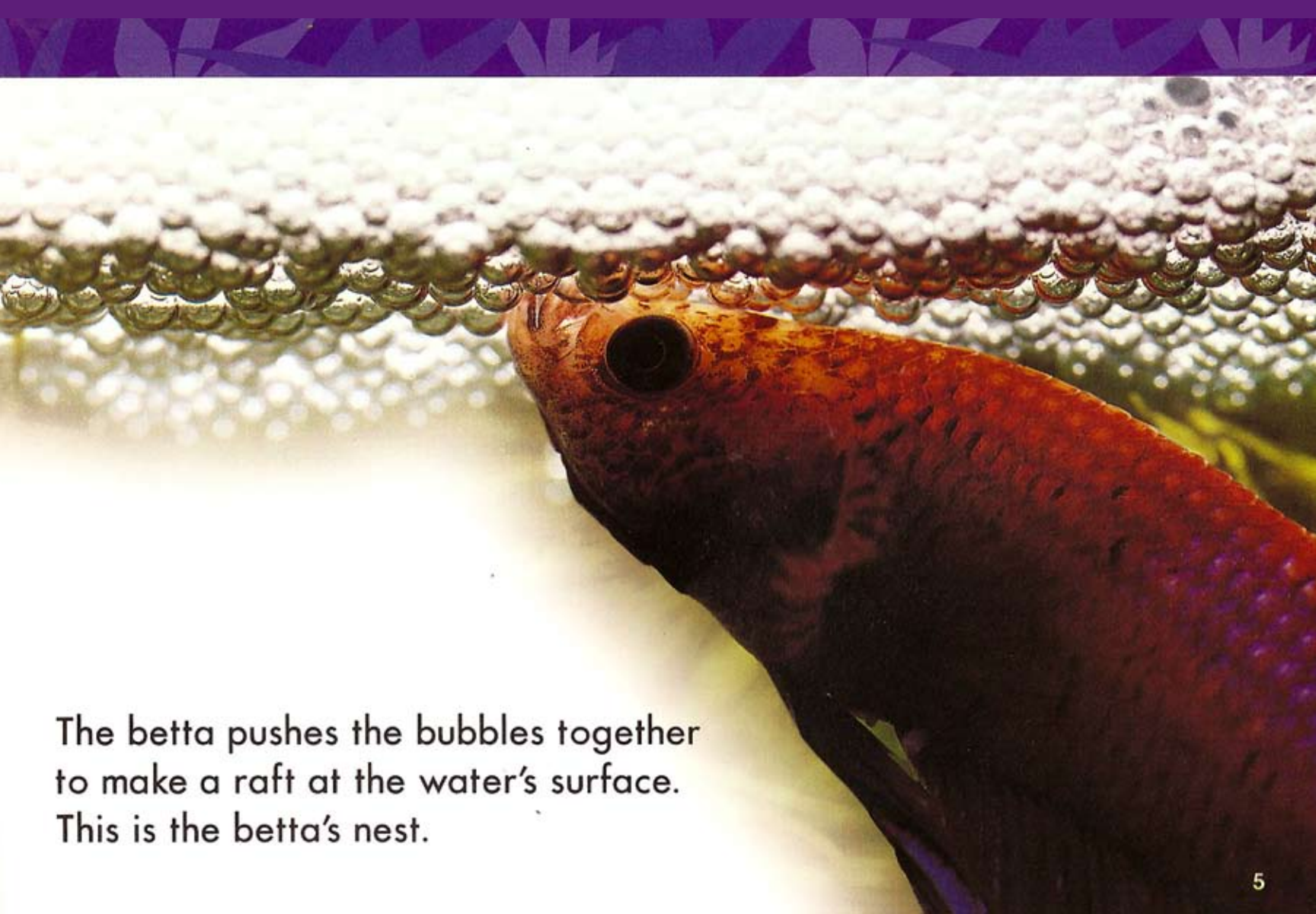
Siamese fighting fish really do fight! A male betta attacks any other male that comes too close. If the loser is lucky, he gets away with a few torn fins. Sometimes the two fish keep fighting until one is seriously hurt or killed.







Before mating, the male betta builds a floating nest. He gulps air and blows tiny bubbles that are coated with sticky saliva.



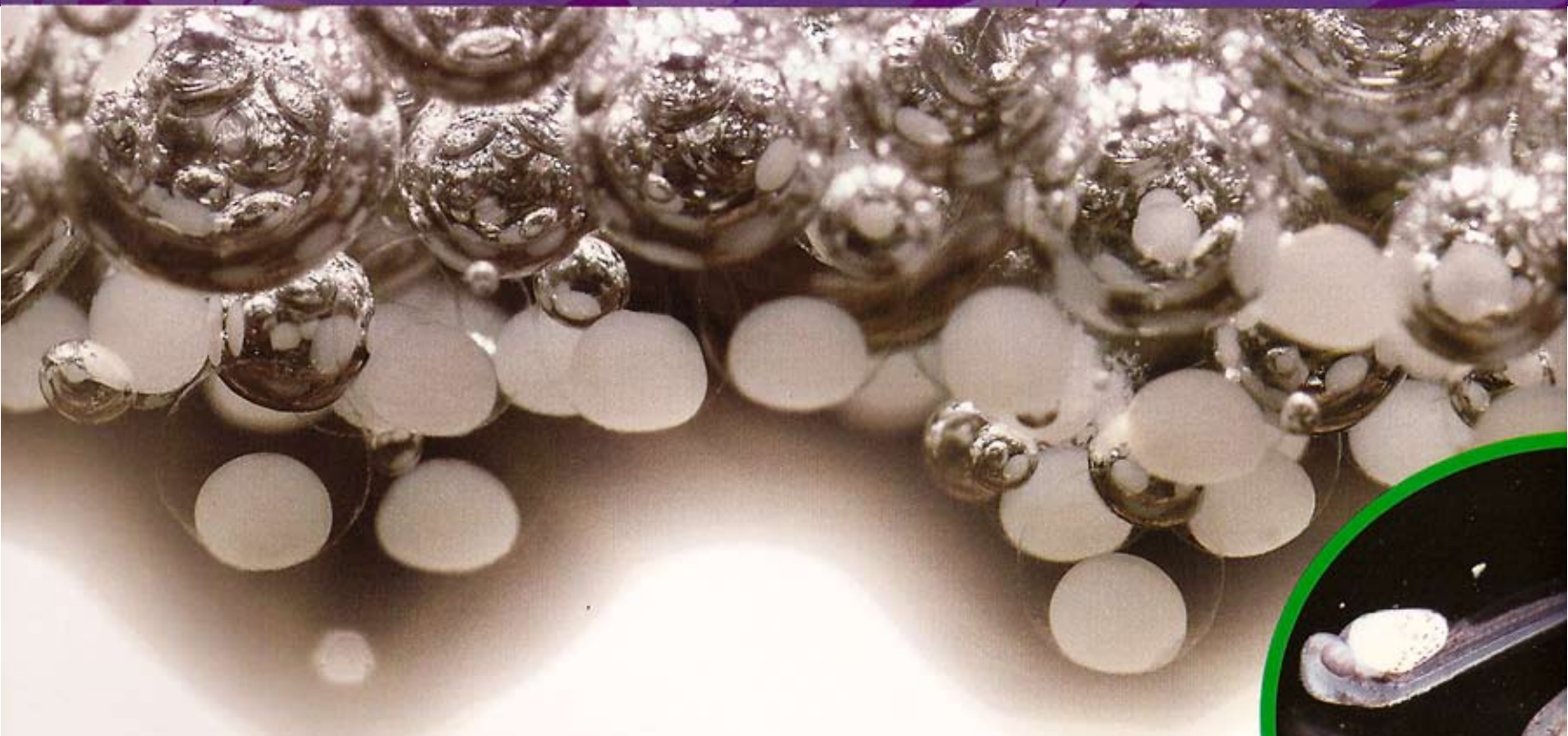
The betta pushes the bubbles together to make a raft at the water's surface. This is the betta's nest.



A female betta swims by. The male curls around her, and she begins to lay hundreds of eggs. The male fertilizes the eggs. Then, before the eggs can sink to the bottom, he collects them with his mouth and blows them into the bubble nest. The bubbles protect the eggs.








In a few days, the eggs hatch into tiny babies called fry. Each fry carries a large sac of yolk on its belly. The yolk is food for the fry.



For a day or two, all the fry stay in the bubble nest for safety. Then they leave. Right away, they can take care of themselves.





The betta fry are now several weeks old.
They are larger and their yolk sacs
have disappeared.

Now they must catch all their food. They eat tiny animals floating in the water. The fry use their gills to get oxygen from the water.



Male and female betta fry look about the same. But by the time they are one year old, male and female bettas look very different. Males are larger and more colorful, and their long fins droop like flags. Soon this male will build a bubble nest and look for a mate. Together they will start another generation of bettas.





Can you put these in order?





Answer



CHOOSE FROM 12 TITLES IN THIS LIFE CYCLES SERIES!

CTP 3059 Monarch Butterfly

CTP 3060 Bean

CTP 3061 Sunflower

CTP 3062 Wood Frog

CTP 3063 Ladybug

CTP 3064 Chicken

CTP 3065 Jumping Spider

CTP 3066 Maple Tree

CTP 3067 Green Snake

CTP 3068 Hummingbird

CTP 3069 Horse

CTP 3070 Fighting Fish