



Jonathan Bird's Blue World

Episode 5 • Swimming with Jaws • Study Guide

Jonathan Bird's Blue World: *Swimming with Jaws* is a story about Great White sharks. Perhaps best known for its role as the protagonist in the film *Jaws*, the Great White shark is probably the world's most feared animal and certainly one of the most dangerous sharks in the oceans. In this episode, Jonathan travels to Guadalupe Island in Mexico to get in a cage and dive with Great White sharks. What is it like to see one of these animals up close? Are they anything like their reputation suggests? These are a couple of the questions Jonathan wants to answer.

Objectives

1. Provides a general overview of the Great White shark, what it eats, and its intelligence.
2. Provides a brief overview of the shark research on Great Whites done at Guadalupe Island, Mexico.

Questions for before watching the program

1. What is the world's most dangerous animal? Why?
2. What do Great White sharks eat? Do they eat people?
3. In the open ocean, what is there for a toothed whale to eat? What would sharks find to eat? Is there a lot of food in the open ocean?
4. Can whales see anything above water? How might they accomplish this?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. How do Great White sharks attack seals and sea lions?
2. How do the sharks react to divers?
3. Do Great White sharks seem aggressive towards people?
4. How many shark attacks are there in an average year? (Check the internet for some stats). How many sharks are killed by people? Which species is more dangerous?
5. What is one of the common theories on why Great Whites sometimes accidentally bite humans? (involves outside research).
6. How do researchers tell Great White sharks apart at Guadalupe Island?
7. Do Great Whites attack their prey from below or from the same level? Why?