



Venomous Fish • Study Guide

Jonathan travels across the Pacific Ocean to investigate some of the most venomous species of fish in the world. He learns about the stonefish, scorpionfish, devilfish and lionfish in his travels, and learns that if you leave them alone, they will leave you alone too.

Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to several of the most venomous fish species and how they use their venom.
2. Demonstrates that venomous fish are for the most part not a threat to people.

Questions for before watching the program

1. What is the difference between an animal which is *venomous* and one that is *poisonous*. Is there a difference? (Might want to check on-line for this).
2. Would a wasp be venomous or poisonous? What about a rattlesnake? Name something that is poisonous.
3. Why do animals generally have venom?
4. Do venomous animals often attack people?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. In what way do all of the venomous fish featured in this segment deliver their venom? (Fangs, spines, etc.)
2. Are venomous fish a serious threat to divers or swimmers?
3. Why do these fish have venom at all? Do they use it to hunt? Protection?
4. Do a web search to find a fish that is not venomous, but poisonous. What is the difference?
5. Why are lionfish so safe from predators once they are mature?
6. The Stonefish, scorpionfish and Spiny Devilfish are all highly camouflaged fish that hunt by being very still and ambushing their prey. Why might they need venom?