



The Real Nemo • Study Guide

Anemonefish, sometimes called Clownfish, are fascinating little fish that live in the protection of an anemone's stinging tentacles. As the main character in the Pixar/Disney film *Finding Nemo*, an anemonefish named Nemo became a household name. And while this brought the anemonefish from obscurity to common knowledge, the film didn't even begin to address how unique these fish really are!

Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to the life and habits of anemonefish.
2. Demonstrates the relationship between various animals in a symbiotic relationship.

Questions for before watching the program

1. What is an anemone? Where do anemones live? How do they capture food?
2. What is symbiosis? Can you think of some symbiotic relationships on land or in the ocean?
3. What kind of anemonefish is Nemo?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. There are many different species of anemonefishes. Nemo is a Clown Anemonefish, sometimes called a Clownfish. Are all anemonefishes Clownfish?
2. What is unique and special about the relationship between the anemonefish and its host anemone?
3. All anemonefishes are *protandrous hermaphrodites*, meaning that all the babies are born as males. Fully mature anemonefish will change into females, and only the most senior anemonefish in an anemone will become a female. So when Nemo's mom was eaten by the barracuda, what should have happened to his dad?
4. How does an anemonefish keep from being stung by its host anemone?
5. Internet research: how many species of anemonefish are there and where do they live (i.e. what oceans/regions of the ocean?)