



Sharks and many other large ocean animals have sucker-equipped fish called *remoras* sticking to them. What are the remoras doing? Do they harm the shark? Jonathan goes on a mission to investigate remoras and their role in the food web. He even sticks one on himself.

Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to a peculiar fish called a remora.
2. Explains how one animal can benefit another in a symbiotic relationship.

Questions for before watching the program

1. What is a symbiotic relationship? What is a parasite?
2. How might one animal attach itself to another in the ocean?
3. Can a shark have a hitch hiker?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. In your opinion, is the remora a parasite or does it benefit the animals it attaches to?
2. What animals sometimes have remoras attached to them?
3. How does a remora attach itself to a host? How is the sucker formed on the remora?
4. Do remoras seem to bother the sharks? Why or why not?
5. Internet research: look up *mutualism* and *commensalism*. Which one more aptly describes the symbiotic relationship of a remora with its host? (This is open for debate, so you must justify your answer.)