



Sea Lions • Study Guide

In this intriguing segment, Jonathan goes diving with a group of playful sea lions in the Galapagos Islands. Impressed by the apparent inquisitiveness of the sea lions, Jonathan heads to the Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut where he learns how they train sea lions, and how smart they are. Jonathan finds out that the sea lions at Mystic know more than 100 commands, and he gets a lesson in sea lion training!

Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to sea lions and their intelligence.
2. Demonstrates how sea lions are trained in captivity.

Questions for before watching the program

1. What is a sea lion? (Hint...are they mammals?) What are some characteristics of mammals?
2. Where do sea lions live?
3. Are sea lions intelligent? What is a measure of intelligence?
4. Where are the Galapagos? Where is California? Are they close?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. Why does the big male sea lion in the Galapagos closely watch Jonathan, and make vocalizations at him?
2. What do sea lions eat? What special adaptations allow a sea lion catch their food in the wild?
3. How do the trainers “speak” to the sea lions at the Mystic Aquarium?
4. Cocoa, the largest sea lion at the Mystic Aquarium, weighs over 700 pounds. How heavy can other sea lions get? (Internet research!)
5. The Galapagos Islands have California Sea Lions living there. Do a little research on-line. What is special about the California Sea Lions in the Galapagos?
6. Internet research: What are the differences between a seal and a sea lion?