



Curaçao Dolphins • Study Guide

Jonathan visits the Curaçao Sea Aquarium to learn about their dolphin program from George Kieffer, the head dolphin trainer. After taking George's dolphin class, he joins him on a dive with Annie, one of the dolphins that is trained to swim with divers on the reef outside the resort. Why don't the dolphins swim away? That's what Jonathan wants to find out!

Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to Bottlenosed dolphins and their behavior.
2. Explores issues around keeping dolphins in captivity.

Questions for before watching the program

1. What is a mammal and what are some characteristics of mammals? Is a dolphin a mammal or a fish?
2. Can a dolphin breathe underwater?
3. Is it wrong to keep dolphins in captivity? Discuss.
4. What if the dolphins were born in captivity? For dolphins born in captivity, what are some issues with releasing them to the wild?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. Why are divers asked not to hold onto the dolphins?
2. Why do the dolphins head back to the aquarium after the dive instead of taking off into the wild?
3. How fast can bottlenosed dolphins swim?
4. Why does Annie need to keep leaving the group of divers?
5. Some people think dolphins should not be kept in captivity. Can you think of some reasons why?
6. What are some positive aspects of keeping dolphins in captivity?
7. Internet research: What do Bottlenosed dolphins eat in the wild? What do they feed them at the Curaçao Sea Aquarium? What special precautions are taken with the food?