



Bottom-Dwelling Sharks • Study Guide

When most people think of a shark, they think of an animal like the Great White or a reef shark. But there are hundreds of small, bottom-dwelling sharks like the Wobbegong that blend in to the bottom to hunt as ambush predators, or simply spend most of their time resting on the bottom. Jonathan travels from Australia to Indonesia looking at interesting sharks that don't look like sharks.

Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to different kinds of sharks and camouflage.

Questions for before watching the program

1. Imagine a shark in your mind. Describe its physical appearance. What kind of shark is it?
2. What are some characteristics of all sharks?
3. Can sharks stop swimming? What happens if they stop swimming?
4. What is camouflage? Can sharks have camouflage?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. What characteristic is shared by the Lemon shark, Wobbegong shark and Nurse shark but not the Hammerhead?
2. How does a shark like the Hammerhead breathe (ventilate its gills)? How does the Wobbegong breathe?
3. Why is the Walking shark so named? What does it walk on?
4. Wobbegong sharks are ambush predators. What does that mean?
5. What is a *spiracle*? What does the Wobbegong use it for? (*Internet research: do other sharks have spiracles and what are they used for?*)