



## Kelp Forests • Study Guide

Off the coast of southern California, Catalina Island is known as one of the greatest places in the world to see Kelp Forests. Jonathan travels to Catalina Island to explore these fantastic undersea forests of plants, and meets the animals that live there, including a Torpedo ray that attacks his camera!

### Objectives

1. Explains the concept of a kelp forest and discusses the basic biology of the marine algae that are kelp.
2. Introduces animals that live in the kelp forest and explains how the kelp forest is an ecosystem in the ocean.

### Questions for before watching the program

1. What is kelp? Is it a plant or an animal?
2. What does the term *kelp forest* mean?
3. Where do kelp forests live?
4. What kind of marine life live in the kelp forests?
5. How might a kelp forest form a habitat?

### Discussion for after watching the program

1. What parts of the kelp are the *frond*, *pneumatocyst* and *stipe*?
2. What kind of kelp forms “forests” off southern California and Catalina Island?
3. How fast can this kelp grow?
4. How does kelp form a habitat for fish?
5. What is a Garibaldi?
6. What is a *holdfast* and what does it hold?
7. How does kelp stay oriented vertically in the water without a rigid trunk like a tree?
8. What two specific things make a Torpedo Ray unique in the world of rays?
9. Internet Research: Where did the Torpedo ray get its name?
- 10: Math question: If kelp can grow 2 feet in a day, how long would it take to grow an inch?