



Hawaiian Monk Seals • Study Guide

Hawaiian Monk seals are a critically endangered group of warm water seals that are only found in the Hawaiian archipelago. Only about 1,200 of the animals remain. Jonathan sets course for the Forbidden Island of Ni'ihau to meet some of these reclusive animals, and gets a fascinating insight into the lonely world of the Hawaiian Monk seal.

Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to the Hawaiian Monk seal, one of the most endangered marine mammals in the world.
2. Introduces a remote part of the Hawaiian Islands.

Questions for before watching the program

1. What is a seal?
2. Where do seals usually live?
3. Where is Hawaii? Can you find Ni'ihau on a map of Hawaii?
4. What do seals usually eat?
5. What are some threats that seals face in the ocean?
6. Why do you think Monk Seals are so endangered?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. Why do Monk seals like to hang out at remote places like Lehua Rock?
2. What do experts think the male monk seal's vocalizations are for?
3. What are some threats facing the Hawaiian Monk seal?
4. How is the Monk seal's vision underwater versus on land?
5. What do the seal's whiskers do?
6. What are some of the challenges that Monk seals face for their recovery?
7. Watch the video and observe how the Monk seal swims. Which flippers provide the majority of the propulsion, the front or rear flippers?
8. Internet Research: Where did they get the name *Monk* seal?