



## Night of the Hunting Sharks • Study Guide

At the remote, lush, uninhabited Cocos Island, 300 miles off the coast of Costa Rica, Jonathan witnesses a nightly hunting ritual. Dozens of Whitetip Reef sharks join together into roving gangs to hunt fish in the reef. But sometimes the fish are pretty good at getting away.

### Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to the Whitetip Reef shark and its habits.
2. Illustrates how sharks can hunt at night.
3. Demonstrates the hunting behavior and techniques of sharks.

### Questions for before watching the program

1. What is a shark? What do sharks eat?
2. Sharks have more senses than humans. What senses do they have that would help them feed at night?
3. What is a *nocturnal* animal? What might a nocturnal animal do during the day?
4. What is an electrosensory system in sharks? What does it detect?
5. What is the lateral line in a fish or shark? What does it detect?

### Discussion for after watching the program

1. What do Whitetip Reef sharks do during the day?
2. How have the Whitetip Reef sharks at Cocos Island learned to take advantage of divers to feed?
3. Why do you think there are so many sharks around Cocos Island?
4. Besides Whitetip Reef sharks, what other sharks are very common at Cocos?
5. What is the primary sense that alerts sharks to a fish in the dark?
6. Where do all the fish seen on the reef during the day go at night?
7. Why do the fish hide at night and not during the day? (hint, what are differences between the senses of a shark and a fish in the day versus in the night).