



Sand Tiger Sharks • Study Guide

Jonathan travels to North Carolina to hunt for sharks on the shipwrecks of “Torpedo Alley” off the outer Banks. He witnesses some very interesting shark behavior.

Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to the “Torpedo Alley” section of the outer banks and the shipwrecks that are there because of German U-Boats in World War II.
2. Introduces the basic biology and behavior of the Sand Tiger shark, including one that is quite uncommon in sharks.
3. Shows how shipwrecks can form the complete framework for a reef ecosystem.

Questions for before watching the program

1. Can sharks control their buoyancy? Why or why not?
2. What do the shape of a shark’s teeth have to do with how or what it feeds upon?
3. What is an *artificial reef*?
4. Why might sharks hang around a shipwreck?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. Why are shipwrecks “magnets” for marine life?
2. Why are there so many shipwrecks off the outer banks of North Carolina?
3. Why are the small fish (Scad) gathering up close to the Sand Tiger sharks?
4. Why don’t the sharks eat the Scad?
5. Why do the sharks seem to be going inside the wrecks?
6. What are the sharks doing inside the wreck which is very uncommon for sharks?
7. How are the sharks able to become neutrally buoyant so they can hover in place?
8. What do the long, thin, needle-like teeth of the Sand Tiger tell us about its eating habits?
9. Are the Sand Tigers aggressive to people?