



## Sea Snakes • Study Guide

Many people don't realize that there are snakes that live in the ocean. And believe it or not, they're actually *considerably* more venomous than land snakes! Jonathan travels to Australia and the Philippines to find these marine reptiles, and learns why they are almost completely harmless to divers.

### Objective

1. Introduces viewers to the biology of sea snakes.

### Questions for before watching the program

1. What kind of animal is a snake? Name a few kinds of snakes.
2. How do snakes move on land? What challenges would they face to swim in the water?
3. How do snakes breathe? What challenges might they face to survive underwater?
4. Are all snakes venomous? Why are some snakes venomous?
5. (Internet research question) What is the difference between poison and venom? What would make one animal poisonous and another one venomous? Do those words mean the same thing?

### Discussion for after watching the program

1. How does a sea snake swim? What adaptation does it have that a land snake does not have in order to allow it to move through the water?
2. How does a sea snake breathe? How long can it remain submerged?
3. Sea snakes have extremely powerful venom, but they are relatively harmless to people. Why?
4. Why might the Banded Sea Snake seen at the end of the segment have such coloration?
5. Why does a sea snake flick its tongue?
6. How does the sea snake hunt and what is it hunting for?
7. Which land snake is the sea snake most closely related to?
8. Where do sea snakes live (which ocean region)?