



Shark Biology • Study Guide

This webisode was developed specifically for use in education to help teach curriculum-based ocean concepts. In this webisode, Jonathan investigates the basic biology of sharks.

Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to the various kinds of sharks and some of their basic adaptations to survive.
2. Explains how sharks are different from bony fishes.

Questions for before watching the program

1. What is a shark? Is it a fish? How is it different from other fish?
2. Name some distinguishing characteristics of all sharks.
3. What does a shark look like? Are they all similar looking?
4. Are sharks dangerous to people?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. Name some ways in which sharks are highly evolved--not primitive.
2. What are some distinguishing characteristics of all sharks?
3. How are sharks different from “bony” fish?
4. Why does a shark sink? What does a shark do to stay off the bottom?
5. Sharks have a special sense that people lack. What does it detect?
6. Why do sharks often like to hunt in low light?
7. How are sharks important in the ecosystem?
8. What is the largest shark in the world and what does it eat?
9. Internet research: Sharks have “cones” in their retinas. Cones are used to detect color, so why is it that sharks don’t see in color?