



Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins • Study Guide

Off the Big Island of Hawaii, Jonathan cavorts with a pod of playful Hawaiian Spinner dolphins and learns how they hunt and sleep while still swimming!

Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to Hawaiian Spinner dolphins and their behavior.
2. Explores diurnal patterns of dolphins and how they sleep.

Questions for before watching the program

1. What is a mammal and what are some characteristics of mammals? What are the characteristics of fish? Is a dolphin a mammal or a fish?
2. Can a dolphin breathe underwater?
3. Do dolphins sleep? Do they breathe when they sleep?
4. Why do you think they are called “spinner” dolphins?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. You need to be patient to interact with wild dolphins. Why?
2. What do Spinner dolphins do to earn their name?
3. When do Spinner dolphins eat and become most active?
4. What are they doing during the day?
5. How do dolphins breathe?
6. How do dolphins sleep without drowning?
7. Internet research: Spinner dolphins feed on squid in the *scattering layer*. What is the scattering layer and how deep do they dive for that?