



Aquarist For A Day • Study Guide

Jonathan goes behind-the-scenes at the New England Aquarium in Boston, Massachusetts to learn what it takes to be an *aquarist*--one of the many people who care for the marine animals at the aquarium. Jonathan's goal is to learn how they feed the Sand Tiger sharks in the Giant Ocean Tank, the largest exhibit in the aquarium. But before he can feed the sharks, there is a lot to learn! Join Jonathan as he works his way up to a dive in the Giant Ocean Tank and an encounter with a whole cast of characters in the tank from Myrtle the turtle, to cow-nosed rays and of course, the Sand Tiger sharks!

Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to the amount of effort required to keep a public aquarium running.
2. Illustrates the kinds of jobs available in this field--some of which are a little unconventional.
3. Introduces several ocean species that are commonly held in captivity.

Questions for before watching the program

1. What characteristics might make for a good shark to keep in captivity?
2. What kinds of things might be involved in maintaining the animals in a huge fish tank?
3. Can you put sharks into a big tank with smaller fish? Will they eat them all?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. What does GOT stand for?
2. Why don't the sharks in the GOT eat the smaller fish? What do the aquarists feed the sharks?
3. What makes feeding all the different animals in the exhibits complicated?
4. Why is a Sand Tiger shark a good one for captivity?
5. A little math problem. The GOT is a cylinder 23 feet deep and 40 feet in diameter. They say it holds 200,000 gallons. How many can it hold if it's completely full? (Hint: 1 cu ft = 7.48 gallons)
6. What are some negative aspects of keeping animals in captivity? Are there any positive aspects? What benefits might there be in public aquaria?