



## Mangroves • Study Guide

Where the tropical ocean meets the sea, a peculiar kind of plant thrives in shallow, salty water. These *mangrove* plants are incredibly important for shoreline protection and baby fish habitats. Jonathan investigates life in mangroves by visiting both Caribbean and Pacific mangroves.

### Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to the biology of mangroves.
2. Illustrates the animals that live in mangroves and gain protection from this habitat.
3. Stresses the importance of mangroves as both habitat and shoreline protection.

### Questions for before watching the program

1. What is a *mangrove*?
2. How do baby fish keep from being eaten?
3. What is erosion? How does erosion threaten shorelines?

### Discussion for after watching the program

1. What two important functions do mangroves perform?
2. Why do you think mangroves make a good buffer zone to protect shoreline erosion?
3. Why are mangroves a great place for baby fish?
4. Salt is tough on plants. What two ways do mangrove plants get rid of the excess salt they take in?
5. What is unique about a mangrove seed?
6. Why are the leaves that fall off the mangrove plants important to nearby reef animals?