



The Georgia Aquarium • Study Guide

Jonathan visits the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta—the largest aquarium in the world—where they keep not one but four whale sharks in captivity, as well as two manta rays. Whale sharks are the largest fish on Earth and Jonathan learns how these animals are maintained in captivity while he dives with them in a 6 million gallon fish tank!

Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to the methods of maintaining large fish in aquaria.
2. Demonstrates how filter feeding animals eat.

Questions for before watching the program

1. What does a whale shark or manta ray eat? What is a filter feeder?
2. Atlanta is several hundred miles from the ocean. Where do you think they got their seawater for the aquarium?
3. Where do whale sharks live?
4. How do you think you could move a whale shark to an aquarium alive?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. Why are the mantas at the Georgia Aquarium hand-fed from a ladle?
2. Why must the Blue World divers wear special scuba gear provided by the Aquarium?
3. The Ocean Voyager tank is shaped a little like a figure 8. Any guess why? (Hint--how does this force the whale sharks to swim?)
4. What are some of the problems in getting a whale shark from Taiwan to Atlanta?
5. If a pump can move 2,000 gallons a minute, how long would it take to pump over 6.3 million gallons once?
6. Math problem: If you built a fish tank the size of a house (lets just say it's a box 36 feet long, 28 feet deep and 25 feet tall) how much water would it hold? (hint: how many gallons are in a cubic foot?)