



Teacher's Guide

Sharks: Species and Survival **The Living Oceans**

Grade Levels:

Intermediate
Junior High
High School

Subject Areas:

Biology
Life Sciences
Environmental Education

Synopsis:

Live-action underwater photography reveals the hunting habits of the ocean's deadliest predators: the sharks. Reef sharks, requiem sharks and swell sharks are compared to the largest fish in the ocean—the whale shark—who moves ponderously and gulps gallons of water to feed on tiny crustaceans and krill. Rare film sequences capture the mating habits of hammerhead sharks and the hunting habits of blue sharks, six-gilled sharks, sand-tiger sharks, and white tipped reef sharks. The final sequence films the great white shark hunting seals and sea lions near the Farallon Islands, explaining that the bloodthirsty scene culls out animals that are weak or ill.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

- Provide examples of predation in the world's oceans.
- Compare and contrast the feeding, hunting and reproductive habits of several species of shark.
- Understand that predators such as sharks serve a greater purpose in the cycle of nature than simply their own survival.

Vocabulary:

plankton, crustaceans, lethargic behemoth, escarpment, pectoral fin, agility

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

Why are so many people afraid of sharks?

Are sharks really the deadly predators that most people think they are?

Where are sharks distributed throughout the oceans of the world?

Do sharks swim in communities or are they solitary creatures?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

Which shark is the most deadly? Which shark is the most gentle?

What animals provide food for sharks? Why is there such a wide variety of food eaten by sharks?

Where are the Farallon Islands located? Which shark is master of the ocean near these islands?

Does the great white shark serve any greater purpose by being such a vicious predator?

Further Activities:

Do further research on any of the species mentioned in this program.

Find out how the Farallon Islands have been highlighted in American travel literature.

Compare the facts about sharks with the depiction of sharks in Hollywood movies.

Investigate how sharks have entered into the folklore of several world cultures.

Related New Dimension Media Titles:

Biological Classification (Series)