



Stingray City • Study Guide

For twenty years, people have been feeding a large group of friendly stingrays at a shallow sand bar in the Cayman Islands. Jonathan travels to Grand Cayman to meet up with the famous marine artist and researcher Dr. Guy Harvey who is studying the relationship between humans and stingrays. How is the human interaction affecting the stingrays? Among other things, he shows Jonathan how to hold a stingray safely in his arms.

Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to the stingray and its basic anatomy.
2. Illustrates how tourism can co-exist with nature with benefits for each.
3. Illustrates methods of conducting research on wild animal movements in the ocean.

Questions for before watching the program

1. What is a stingray? How does it get its name? What does it look like?
2. Are stingrays dangerous to people? How do they defend themselves?
3. What do you think a bottom-dweller like a stingray might eat?
4. Can you think of a way you might be able to keep track of several dozen wild stingrays so that if you caught one you could tell which one it was?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. Why do the stingrays at Stingray City interact with people?
2. Does being fed by humans affect the behavior of the stingrays? In what ways? How have they adapted?
3. How has Dr. Harvey tagged the stingrays to monitor them?
4. What do the stingrays do in the early morning at Stingray City which is not known to happen anywhere else? Why do you suppose they do it?
5. What do stingrays eat when they are not being fed by people? What feeds on stingrays?
6. What has Dr. Harvey learned about the stingrays at stingray city that makes them different from “normal” stingrays that don't interact with people?