



Sea Stars • Study Guide

At first glance, starfish, more properly called sea stars, aren't doing much of anything. But Jonathan's investigations reveal a slow-motion predator that hunts and attacks its prey. Traveling the world, Jonathan investigates sea stars from the tropics to the Antarctic and uses time-lapse photography to reveal an amazing complexity to the world of the sea star.

Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to various kinds of sea stars and how they live.
2. Demonstrates that even seemingly simple animals can be important members of an ecosystem.

Questions for before watching the program

1. Can sea stars move around? Can they see? What do they eat?
2. Where do sea stars live? Do they live in warm water? Cold water? Both? Oceans or lakes?
3. Is a sea star a fish?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. How do sea stars walk?
2. Why are these animals more correctly called "sea stars" rather than "starfish?" (Hint...are they fish?)
3. How does a sea star hunt and eat a scallop or mussel?
4. What do basket sea stars eat and how do they catch it?
5. Why are Crown-of-thorns sea stars bad news for coral reefs?
6. What is the world's largest sea star and where did Jonathan find it?
7. How are Linckia sea stars like bumper cars?