



This webisode was developed specifically for use in education to help teach curriculum-based ocean concepts. In this webisode, Jonathan investigates the concept of the “cleaning station” where certain animals (typically on coral reefs) “clean” other animals of parasites or dead skin. This mutualistic behavior is both fascinating and important for many marine animals.

Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to the dynamics of the “cleaning station” in the ocean and explains how this is a relationship which is beneficial for both parties.
2. Introduces several types of animals that serve as both cleaners and “clients” at cleaning stations.

Questions for before watching the program

1. What is symbiosis? What is mutualism?
2. What is a parasite? How do animals deal with parasites in the ocean?
3. Do animals in the ocean ever cooperate?
4. Do fish take baths? Then how do they get clean?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. What two types of animals most commonly act as “cleaners” on the reef?
2. Why do marine creatures need to be cleaned at cleaning stations?
3. List a few marine animals that engage in the services of cleaners in the ocean.
4. Why does a manta need some current to visit a cleaning station?
5. What do the cleaners get in exchange for cleaning their “clients”?
6. Internet research: What would happen if an animal pretended to be a cleaner fish and used it as a way to get close to a larger animal? (*Hint: research the **false cleanerfish***).