



Fish Count • Study Guide

Jonathan joins a group of volunteer divers as part of an international event called the *Great Annual Fish Count* to take a census of marine life across the globe. His mission: dive the chilly waters of Massachusetts with a pencil...and count fish!

Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to a marine census and its function in biological monitoring.
2. Demonstrates techniques for taking a census of marine life using divers.

Questions for before watching the program

1. What is a census? What is another kind of census and why is it used?
2. Why might a census of fish be useful for biologists and policy-makers in government?
3. How might fish populations become “depleted” and how would a census (or series of censuses) reveal such a depletion?
4. Who might benefit from the information gained from a marine census and how?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. Why are divers ideally suited for taking a census of marine life?
2. How can a census help protect marine populations?
3. What basic tools does a diver use to take a marine census?
4. What are some of the fish that Jonathan saw during his marine census dive?
5. What makes a Torpedo Ray particularly effective as a hunter?
6. What characteristics make the flounder particularly well-suited for life on the bottom?
7. Why is it useful for all the counting in locations all over the world to be done at the same time?

To review some of the results of the *R.E.E.F. Great Annual Fish* count, please take a look here: hwww.reef.org/db/reports