

Jonathan visits the School for Field Studies in the Turks & Caicos Islands to learn how college students conduct field work in their pursuit of degrees in marine studies. He helps tag sharks, study conch and investigate marine protected areas!

Objectives

- 1. Introduces viewers to some of the methods marine biologists use in the study of marine life.
- 2. Introduces several species of marine life including Lemon sharks and conch.
- 3. Introduces the marine protected area and how it is studied.

Questions for before watching the program

- 1. What is a marine protected area? How can it help people?
- 2. What do marine biologists study?
- 3. What is a conch? (By the way, it's pronounced "konk") Why is the conch so important?
- 4. What is a mangrove? What kind of fish live in mangroves?

Discussion for after watching the program

- 1. What is the purpose of catching and tagging sharks? What can be learned about them and how?
- 2. A small tissue sample is taken from sharks for isotope analysis. Internet research: what is that and how can it show what the sharks are eating?
- 3. What is a *transect* and how is it used to study fish populations?
- 4. Why were the students counting fish with a transect? (Hint: something to do with the marine protected area).
- 5. Why was one of the students trying to find a way to measure the size of a conch without its shell?
- 6. Where did the students catch the baby Lemon sharks and why are they there?
- 7. Why do the students measure and catalog the fish that fishermen were catching?
- 8. If you were going to be a marine biologist, what would you like to study?