



Sea Snake Island • Study Guide

In this exciting adventure, Jonathan travels to Manuk, a tiny, uninhabited volcanic island several hundred miles from the nearest populated island in Indonesia, on a mission to discover why the waters of this remote place are teeming with thousands of venomous sea snakes!

Objective

1. Introduces viewers to the biology of sea snakes.

Questions for before watching the program

1. What kind of animal is a snake? Name a few kinds of snakes.
2. How do snakes move on land? What challenges would they face to swim in the water?
3. How do snakes breathe? What challenges might they face to survive underwater?
4. Are all snakes venomous? Why are some snakes venomous?
5. (Internet research question) What is the difference between poison and venom? What would make one animal poisonous and another one venomous? Do those words mean the same thing?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. How does a sea snake swim? What adaptation does it have that a land snake does not have in order to allow it to move through the water?
2. How does a sea snake breathe? How long can it remain submerged?
3. Do sea snakes sleep? Where do they sleep?
4. How do sea snakes hunt?
5. Why can a sea snake hold its breath for so long?
6. Nobody is quite sure why there are so many sea snakes at Manuk Island. What are some possible reasons?
7. What does the sea snake accomplish by flicking its tongue?
8. Where do sea snakes live (which ocean region)?