

NORTH AMERICA



Learn Young or Die Family Discussion Guide

Program Description

NORTH AMERICA: Learn Young or Die explores the upper reaches of this vast continent. North America contains some of the world's tallest mountain peaks. Storm battered at the top, they give way to dense forests that are filled with extraordinary wildlife and the tallest and oldest trees on the planet. Through epic and intimate cinematography, we enter the secret world of America's most remote places, where survival is a daily battle. From avalanche-dodging grizzlies to head-bashing big horn sheep, from diving bears to cunning coyotes, we witness the extremes and the wonders of North America's mountains and forests.

Discussion Questions

How fast can an avalanche travel? How much snow can be displaced during an avalanche?

How many oak trees are estimated to be in North America? How many species of flower are native to the continent?

Why is the coyote referred to as a "trickster" in Native American lore?

What is the purpose of the male calliope hummingbird's purple neck feathers?

At what speed does a hummingbird's heart beat?

What physical changes occur in salmon when they enter the freshwater streams from the saltwater ocean?

How does the collared pika prepare its shelter for the winter?

In what ways are chipmunks specially adapted to gather nuts? How many acorns will a chipmunk store for the winter?

Describe the importance of salmon to the ecosystem of the Pacific Northwest.

When sparring, a bighorn ram can crash into its opponent at 20 miles per hour with 800 pounds of force. How has the bighorn ram adapted to withstand these crushing blows?

At-Home Activity

After viewing *NORTH AMERICA: Learn Young or Die*, ask your child or children to recall examples of interspecies competition from the program (chipmunks fighting for acorns, bald eagles competing for salmon, bighorn rams battling for a mate, etc.). Instruct each of your learners to select one example of interspecies competition from the program. Challenge your children to plan and film a video that provides an in-depth look at interspecies competition among the species they selected. Encourage each child to review the segment from *NORTH AMERICA: Learn Young or Die* that contains his or her chosen animal and to take notes on the physical characteristics and behavior of the species. Then, each child should carefully consider how to best portray his or her example of interspecies competition and spend time researching the animal using resources from Discovery Education Streaming, the Internet, and the library. Together, children should then create a storyboard for the video and write a script. Give your children several days to plan, film, and edit their video. Once they have finished creating their video, invite them to upload the video to a personal website, blog, social networking page, or video sharing site. To conclude the lesson, ask your children to vote on which animal from *NORTH AMERICA: Learn Young or Die* faces the toughest interspecies competition.