

# NORTH AMERICA



## ***The Savage Edge* Family Discussion Guide**

### **Program Description**

*NORTH AMERICA: The Savage Edge* journeys to the continent's final frontier, where human civilization and untamable wilderness collide. Just a few feet off Miami's crowded beaches, astounding aerials reveal a massive migration of thousands of sharks. Those who live on North America's edge must face the savage forces that storm in from the sea. Our crew braved the elements to film the landfall of one of the most powerful hurricanes to hit the American coast in ways never seen before. From peregrine falcons that fiercely defend the stark cliffs of California to a band of maverick dolphins that have learned to hunt by chasing fish onto land, *NORTH AMERICA: The Savage Edge* goes inside the explosive collisions that define the continent's coasts.

### **Discussion Questions**

Name three animal species that depend on the massive migration of capelin to the waters of Newfoundland.

What techniques do bottlenose dolphins use to catch fish in shallow waters?

Describe why the lion's mane jellyfish can be considered both predator and prey. Use specific examples from the program.

Describe why the ocean is called the "final frontier" of North America, using specific examples from the program.

In what ways have tectonic plates shaped the topography of the West Coast of North America?

Describe the unique physical characteristics of the horseshoe crab, using specific examples from the program. In what ways have the physical qualities of the crab allowed the species to survive 200,000 years of evolution?

What causes phytoplankton in the ocean to luminesce?

Describe the relationship between the moon and Earth's ocean tides. In what ways does the fluctuation of the tide affect the plant and animal life of North America's coastal regions?

Why are coastal regions in North America more populous than inland regions?

What weather conditions cause hurricanes to develop? How do hurricanes move across the ocean?

What causes hurricanes to increase speed?

### **At-Home Activity**

While watching *NORTH AMERICA: The Savage Edge*, ask your children to write the names of the animals that migrate, as shown in the program. Once the presentation is finished, help your children determine the meaning of the word *migrate* and answer the following questions together: Which animals migrated during the program? What are the push and pull factors that cause an animal to move to another location? In what ways is migration potentially dangerous for animals? Next, help your children draw a map of North America and challenge them to draw the migration routes of at least three animals presented during the program, using Discovery Education Streaming or the Internet as a research tool. Encourage your children to use as much detail and creativity as possible when drawing the migration map, making sure to label states, provinces, bodies of water, and major cities. Finally, ask your children to either write a poem or compose a song that expresses the importance of migration to animals of North America. In each poem or song, children should include such details as the names of the animals and the beginning and ending points of each migration path. To conclude the activity, ask your children to share their poem or song with family and friends, using the migration map as a visual aid.