



DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT
CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

PROGRAM SYNOPSIS

GROUPER EDUCATION PROGRAM



**"Changing Seas"
Documentary Video**

Documentary Video, Changing Seas: Grouper Moon

Description:

One of the first activities you will do with you students will be viewing this documentary film. Produced by PBS, this documentary is only 26 minutes long and provides your students with a broad overview of The Grouper Moon Project, how it began, what researchers are doing at the spawning site, and the role education is playing in conserving the Nassau Grouper.

"Join researchers from the Reef Environmental Education Foundation and the Cayman Islands Department of Environment as they study one of the last great reproductive populations of Nassau Grouper. Normally a solitary species, during the winter full moons Nassau Grouper travel, sometimes over great distances, to "group" together and spawn. While most of the known spawning sites in the Caribbean have been fished out over the years, the west end of Little Cayman in the Cayman Islands is home to the largest known reproductive spawning aggregation of this endangered species."

Learning Objectives:

- Develop active listening skills.
- Develop an understanding of the historical and ecological importance of the Nassau Grouper.
- Develop an understanding of the life cycle and reproductive behavior of the Nassau Grouper.
- Develop student's understanding of marine conservation concepts.

National Science Curriculum Alignment: Year 4

- Find out about other animals, including how they grow, feed, move, and use their senses.
- Investigate a local habitat, including the relationship between the animals and plants found there, and develop skills in classifying animals and plants by observing external features.

Watching the Documentary:

You can access the documentary via the Changing Seas' website or on YouTube, using the following links:

Link: <https://www.changingseas.tv/season-4/403/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9tYkdK233Q>

Discussion Questions:

We have developed a series of questions to ask your students after viewing the film. You can use these questions as part of a whole class discussion, or you can assign questions to students as an assignment.

1. What is an interesting fact you learned about Nassau Grouper?
2. What time of the year do Nassau Grouper spawn? Why?
3. Why has the Nassau Grouper become an endangered species?
4. Where do the Nassau Grouper live?
5. Where is the last Nassau Grouper aggregation located?
6. What were the signs that the Nassau Grouper population in the Caymans was in trouble?
7. What are the signs that the Nassau Grouper population is recovering?

Extension:

The Changing Seas documentary was produced over 10 years ago. The current list of protections for the Nassau Grouper and the aggregation site has since changed. Challenge your students to visit the DOE website and find out what the current regulations are and how long they will last.

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