

Nature's Greatest Moments Animal Antics - Insects & Reptiles

17 x 5 MINUTES

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. Love on the Reeds

It's a frog fight. First our 2 males try their voices at vocalising to attract the pretty gal, with our hero and his expanding balloon like throat, clearly out croaking his rival who then resorts to fisticuffs in an attempt to win favour. The victor wins all and is last seen cuddling in the moonlight.

2. From Hunter to Hunted

Pythons are usually the aggressors snapping up morsels whenever the opportunity arises, but witness as a clutch of python eggs hatch and from 1st breath are cautious to a certain predator who has a panache for little snakes or snake omelette.

3. Many Hands make Light Work

Many hands make light work-tending to their queen is a full time job for termites. Not only is she more than 100 x their size and looks like a French loaf with a head, she is also quite demanding and insists on constant attention at all times. The soldier and worker termites not only have to look after her royal highness but they need to collect food, guard the eggs and baby-sit the little ones in the nursery.

4. Turtle Tales

Its one thing for a newly born turtle to dig itself to the surface after hatching but quite another for it to run the gauntlet to the sea and "safety"? Just when they think they are safe when they arrive at the breaking surf there are a whole host of other dangers lurking.

5. A Load of Bull

Meet the lion of the frog world, the Bull Frog. Big ugly, and a roar like a lion. The bullfrog is one of the most aggressive of the frog family and is a well known contender in many a fight especially when it's defending a brood of newly hatched tadpoles.

6. Dance like a Butterfly.....

And we thought only chameleons change colour to suit their environment. Take a look at the crab spider that changes colour to blend in with the flower of its choice and thus snare unsuspecting bees on a hunt for pollen.

7. Dangerous Liasons

Like any newly born a croc hatchlings first instinct is to call for mum. When mum does come to help one look at mum's teeth and the hatchlings might prefer to risk the fate of a nearby Lizard who fancies a bit of croc for lunch. Swimming lessons commence straight after hatching. (for those who survive mums teeth and the lizards jaw)

8. What's the Buzz

Bees have many very different ways to communicate from wing beats to a secret pheromone which only members of the same hive understand. But what happens when an impostor, from another colony, infiltrates the hive and tries to make off with "the queens share".

9. Dining Out

Little Jack Horner sat in a corner eating his curds & whey , in swam a spider... Yes some spiders do swim and some even catch fish rather than moths. A look at some other things spiders eat and the often strange ways they catch them.

10. Gone Fishing

Crocodiles take their fishing seriously and even an inquisitive terrapin fails to divert this activity, lucky for the terrapin as it gets to avoid being on the menu. These cumbersome creatures boast their agility and speed by catching fish in a waterfall.

11. One Animal's Dung is another.....

What might seem as waste to Africa's many herbivores is gold to the Dung Beetle who needs animals dung for its species survival. Not only do these dung beetles gather and roll as much dung as possible but they will even resort to high jacking another's ball, which it has spent many hours perfecting. But not without a fight.

12. Going for a Spin

It's the strongest substance on earth and manufactured at will by spiders. Spiders use their silk for many different uses including locomotion, hunting and making a happy home.

13. Learning to be a Croc

Crocodiles aren't born mean they have to learn how to do it. Take a look at what it takes to be a real croc from the first meal to recognising which reptile is the right mom.

14. Gone Camping

An Orb spider out on a hike gets caught in a rainstorm and quickly has to erect its own shelter. Using its ever-present silk and a bit of leaf the Orb has a bit of shelter in no time at all and escapes the storm.

15. Frog in your Throat

Frogs generate sound in many various ways including expanding bellow like throats and makeshift musical instruments all with many varying tunes and pitches. Experience a cacophony of frog noises and the ingenious methods of making them.

16. Snack Attack

Snakes have many different ways of defending themselves from playing dead to camouflage. Possibly the last method is attack. This short looks at these and other methods a snake uses for defense as well as the different methods used to attack and catch prey.

17. Spider's Babies

A spider's strongest instinct is to reproduce and they have unique methods of reproduction as well as distinctive ways of protecting their eggs (and young) from other predators.