

**Grades: 6-8**

## **Nature, “Nature’s Miniature Miracles”**

Great things come in small packages, and animals are no exception to the rule. From a tiny sengi, the "cheetah" of the shrew world, to a hummingbird who travels thousands of miles north each year, from a small shark that walks on land, to an army of baby turtles instinctively racing to the safety of the open ocean. We will travel across the world, through vast savannahs to rocky plateaus, and down to the depths of the seas, to shine a light on these tiny survivors of the animal kingdom. It is a great big world out there, but for these animals, size does not matter.

**After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning**

### **Question Box 1**

- Describe how the shallow coral reef is a good location for the Epaulette Shark to thrive?
- Why and how does the Epaulette Shark “walk”?
- What is meant by “the Peacock Spider must dance for his life”?
- Describe the Peacock Spiders intricate dance.
- Why is the Sengi considered the cheetah of the shrew world?
- How do the baby turtles represent an “army racing to the safety of the open ocean”?
- Do you agree with the statement “safety of the open ocean?” Why or why not?
- How many miles does a hummingbird travel north? Why and how?

### **Question Box 2**

- If a part 2 of this program was created, what would you like them to focus on?
- What would you like to research? Why?
- What were some of the most interesting things you learned while watching this program?
- What do you think it means when someone says “great things come in small packages”?
- Do you think this episode did a good job or not of “shining a light on these tiny heroes”?
- Which animal do you think performed the most mind-boggling feat and why?

### **Box 3 (Tasks)**

- Describe and give evidence for the advantages of being small for some of the animals in the video.

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- Draw one of the animals in the video interacting in its habitat.
- Make a list of strategies that these “miniature miracles” use to help them survive in a big world.
- Select two of the animals in this episode to compare and contrast strategies used by both.

#### **Box 4 (Enrichment)**

- Draw a map and show the migration route of the hummingbird mentioned in the video.
- Research and list five fun facts for the Sengi, or Elephant Shrew.
- Compare and contrast very large animals and very small animals as mentioned in the video.

#### **Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)**

- There can be advantages and disadvantages to things that are smaller. Over the last decades, many items in our world have been reduced in size. Review the things in the link below.  
[13 Things You Never Realized Were Shrinking](#)
- For each thing decide if the change in size is:
  - Good for everyone - why?
  - Good for some and bad for others
    - Who benefits and who does not - why?
  - What is causing the change?
  - What could slow or stop the change?
- What products can you think of that could be improved if they were smaller? What benefit would that change have and for whom?