



# NATURE



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**THIRTEEN's *Nature* takes an innovative look inside the bio-mechanics of animals in a landmark two-part series, *Moment of Impact*, premiering April 4 and 11, 2010, on PBS**

***Nature Online* ([pbs.org/nature](http://pbs.org/nature)) features full-length streaming episodes, live chats with filmmakers, and production blogs.**

How does a cheetah burst into blinding speed to hunt gazelles? How can a basilisk lizard "walk" on water? Or a woodpecker's brain withstand forces that are 20 times a boxer's knockout punch? There are moments in the natural world that inspire awe and create wonder, moments when animals display astounding abilities as they come into contact with each other and the world around them -- predator against prey, physical against elemental, enormous against miniscule. How has nature engineered these creatures to perform in such remarkable ways? Live action footage only reveals part of the answer. Using the latest state-of-the-art imaging technologies including 3-D anatomical CGI, motion capture and advanced medical diagnostics, ***Nature*** takes viewers inside each animal for a unique perspective and an innovative examination of extraordinary feats. The breakthrough two-part series ***Moment of Impact*** premieres consecutive Sundays, April 4 and 11, 2010, at 8 p.m. (ET) on PBS ([check local listings](#)). ***Moment of Impact*** will be available for streaming on ***Nature Online*** ([pbs.org/nature](http://pbs.org/nature)), along with more than 30 other full-length programs.

***Nature*** is a production of THIRTEEN in association with WNET.ORG — one of America's most prolific and respected public media providers.

"This is the definitive television experience for anyone who wants to explore animal marvels from flying reptiles to fishing birds," said Fred Kaufman, Series Executive Producer. "Animals

seem to defy the laws of physics with their incredible abilities every day. Often, these moments happen in the blink of an eye; making them nearly impossible to see. Now, with our cutting-edge camera and computer production, viewers get an inside look at just how animals work.”

In two eye-opening hours, ***Moment of Impact*** examines species in two vastly different natural environments, demonstrating an impressive array of abilities. The program creates “360 ° Time Slice” technology using high-speed time-lapse cameras, infrared and night vision combined with computer graphics to illustrate astonishing physical attributes and behaviors. The film digitally strips away successive photorealistic layers of skin, muscles, skeletal structure, and brain to show the bodily reflexes of animals caught in the heat of moment. Viewers will come away with a deeper understanding of the inner workings of the animals’ complex anatomical structures and processes.

Part 1’s ***Hunters & Herds*** (April 4) focuses on savannahs and grasslands, where the planet’s largest concentrations of herd animals come up against some of nature’s most successful hunters. In Africa’s Serengeti, wildebeest, built like marathon runners, are under constant attack from lions, born sprinters. Both are speedy. But as long as the wildebeest maintain a 50-yard safety zone when lions are near, their risk of becoming lunch is greatly reduced. In California’s grasslands, ground squirrels face a regular battle with rattlesnakes that hunt using heat-detecting organs located on the sides of their heads. The squirrels have developed a surprising defensive strategy of deception. When faced with a venomous viper, instead of running away, the squirrel stays put and flicks its tail to increase its heat profile, fooling the snake into believing it’s larger than it actually is. Among the other animals explored in this episode are the giraffe, with its miraculously long neck, and the elephant and its multifunctional trunk.

Part 2’s ***Jungle*** (April 11) looks at the incredible bio-engineering of jungle residents, both on the ground and in the forest canopy. Leaf-cutter ants are capable of carrying materials 10 times their weight. Equally impressive, the jaws of trap-jaw ants can produce a bite force 300 times their own body weight -- stronger than that of a shark’s. Cuban crocodiles have the unlikely ability to leap up to six feet straight out of the water to catch their prey, while basilisk lizards walk on water, thanks to their wide-webbed feet and unique gaits. No wonder the basilisk is called the “Jesus lizard.” Among many other animal talents explored, ***Jungle*** also takes a look at how ospreys dive for fish, and how a bat “swims” through the air.

In the wild, the line between life and death is decided in mere seconds. ***Nature’s Moment of Impact*** provides an unprecedented glimpse into those moments, rarely observed in all their glorious detail until now.

Visit ***Nature Online*** ([pbs.org/nature](http://pbs.org/nature)) to watch previous programs and get updates about the series. Viewers can sound off about issues explored on ***Nature***, take polls and share animal photos with the ***Nature*** community.

***Nature*** has won nearly 600 honors from the television industry, the international wildlife film communities and environmental organizations — including 10 Emmys, three Peabodys and the first award given to a television program by the Sierra Club. Most recently, the series won a Peabody Award for *Silence of the Bees* and received two Emmy nominations for *Crash: A Tale of Two Species* and *White Falcon, White Wolf*.

***Nature's Moment of Impact*** is a production of THIRTEEN and National Geographic Television in association with WNET.ORG. ***Nature*** is a production of THIRTEEN in association with WNET.ORG for PBS. Fred Kaufman is Executive Producer. William Grant is Executive-in-Charge. Major corporate support for ***Nature*** is provided by Canon U.S.A., Inc. Additional support is provided by the Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust and by PBS and public television viewers.

***Nature Online*** ([pbs.org/nature](http://pbs.org/nature)) is the award-winning web companion to the broadcast series and is spearheading ***Nature***'s distribution to new media platforms. At ***Nature Online***, visitors can stream full episodes of ***Nature*** programs, watch behind-the-scenes video exclusives with filmmakers and producers (also available at iTunes), view program excerpts (also available on YouTube) and find fun interactive content, teacher lesson plans and more. Join ***Nature*** on Facebook ([Facebook.com/PBSNature](https://www.facebook.com/PBSNature)) and follow the series on Twitter ([Twitter.com/PBSNature](https://twitter.com/PBSNature)) to keep up with the latest videos, photos, program alerts and more.

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