

Name _____



What Does a Barracuda Eat?

The barracuda is a fierce predator and a carnivore, which means it eats meat. Its diet mainly consists of smaller fish, including species like snapper, grunts, and herrings. Barracudas are not picky eaters and will chase any fish that looks like a tasty meal. These sleek hunters use their speed and sharp teeth to catch their prey quickly.

One of the barracuda's favorite hunting techniques is ambush. They hide near coral reefs or seagrass beds, blending in with their shiny, silver bodies. When an unsuspecting fish swims by, the barracuda strikes with lightning speed. Barracudas can swim up to 27 miles per hour, making it nearly impossible for their prey to escape.

Barracudas also have excellent eyesight, which helps them spot fish from far away. Their strong jaws and uneven, razor-sharp teeth allow them to grab and tear apart their prey. Sometimes, barracudas hunt in groups called schools, working together to chase and trap fish. Other times, they hunt alone, relying on stealth and speed.

While barracudas mostly eat fish, they are known to eat squid and crustaceans, such as shrimp and crabs, when they are available. Their diet plays an important role in the ocean ecosystem. By eating smaller fish, barracudas help control fish populations and keep the balance of life in the sea.

Despite their fearsome reputation, barracudas are not dangerous to humans unless they feel threatened. They are curious creatures and might follow divers or swimmers, but attacks are extremely rare. Most of the time, barracudas are just focused on finding their next meal in the vast ocean.