

SCIENCE  
TECHNOLOGY  
MEDICINE

DOCUMENTARY  
30 MIN.

#### VERSIONS

Arabic, English, French,  
Spanish  
German: 50-52, 113-115

#### RIGHTS

Worldwide:  
50-52, 103-106, 113-115  
VOD, Mobile: 113-115

#### RUNNING TIME

10x30 min.

#### ORDER NUMBER

26 2634 | Diverse



## Science Workshop

The series is designed to show viewers how scientific research can affect our everyday lives. The emphasis is not on dogmatic certainties, but on the struggle to extend the frontiers of knowledge, and this “workshop atmosphere” is intended to give the viewer a better understanding of scientific research and make it clear that even the most complex subjects can be broken down into a logical sequence of small, individual steps.

### 50 + 51 Advance into Secret Depths I and II

The Bahamas – more than 700 islands in the north of the Caribbean with a magnetic attraction for tourists. Visitors flock to the tourist centres of Nassau and Freeport. But for divers and cave explorers, the Bahamas offer highlights of a different kind: the mystical “Blue Holes”. Joining a group of experienced divers and speleologists, a German television team sets off into the bush to discover the secrets of the hidden caves. And there’s a great deal to discover: enchanting underwater landscapes, animals which are found nowhere else in the world, relics of bygone ages that cast light on the geological and human history of the Bahamas. The divers find the skull of a Lucayan, for example, a member of the ethnic group that populated the islands up to the arrival of Columbus and – to the explorer’s eternal discredit – disappeared virtually without trace within decades. But the scientific expedition ends in tragedy, a stinging reminder of the dangers attached to advancing into the fascinating secret depths of these caves. Rob Parker, a highly experienced diver and underwater cameraman, suffers a fatal accident and does not return from his last dive.

### 52 The World’s Most Beautiful Aquarium

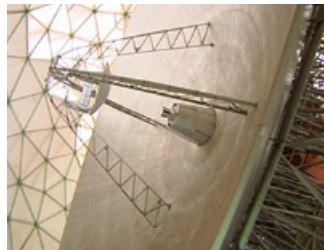
Located in Monterey, California is the world’s biggest aquarium. Awaiting visitors on an area of over 20,000 square metres are more than one hundred tanks and basins: an artificial home for the flora and fauna of the Pacific with habitats ranging from the shallows to the ocean depths. But anyone expecting performances with trained killer whales, dolphins, or sea lions will be disappointed. The aim of the Monterey Bay Aquarium is for visitors to simply look, enjoy, and learn. All the plants and animals come from Monterey Bay itself. To help them in their work, researchers and engineers at the aquarium have the use of a ship and an underwater robot. Even the most experienced deep-sea divers are astonished at what has been brought up from the depths of the ocean, creatures that have been given a new habitat in the aquarium.

### 103 Expedition into Nanoland

Nanotechnology – science and the frontiers of the perceptible. Tiny particles and molecules are giving growth in research and industry an undreamt-of boost. This film presents some of the most interesting projects; for example, how nanoparticles hunt viruses, how nanominerals dispel toothaches and how nanoglass makes the sun shine more brightly.

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#### 104 Healing with Molecules

Medicinal drugs cure disease and save lives. But a new drug usually takes twelve years to develop, often at a cost of more than 500 million euros. Co-operation between university hospitals, biotechnology firms and the research departments of pharmaceutical companies is of vital importance. This film traces the development of a medicinal drug and explains what Germany, and Europe as a whole, have to do to regain its place among the world's elite.

#### 105 Intelligent Plastics

Polymers, plastics obtained from petroleum, are more versatile than virtually any other type of material. They are replacing conventional materials in more and more areas of application. The advantage of polymers is that they are light, have a long service life and can be recycled. These are outstanding pre-requisites for becoming the leading materials of the future. And now plastics are revealing an entirely new capability: they are starting to organize themselves...

#### 106 Concerns, Inventors, and Innovations

This film takes an exciting journey through the research laboratories of major companies and organizations. Optical data networks, the world's starchiest potato, the fastest rail vehicles, outer space in the classroom, digital motor cars, air traffic logistics of the future – and time and again the question of whether firms in Germany, and Europe as a whole, are equipped for global competition.

#### On a Research Trip in the Pacific

Off the coast of Central America scientists on board the German research vessel "Meteor" are studying oceanic regions where tectonic plates are pushing against one another. They want to find out more about processes which influence the genesis of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis. The following three parts of this mini-series not only take the viewer down to unknown depths, they also provide a look behind the scenes of a modern research ship.

#### 113 A Look into the Depths

In this film an ROV submersible descends to a depth of up to two thousand metres in search of gas vents, bacteria mats, and samples of sediment.

#### 114 Change of Staff

We experience a final dive on board the ROV submersible before heading for the port of Caldera. The exhausted scientists leave the ship with their "booty" to be replaced by a new team equipped with a deep-sea drill.

#### 115 Messages from the Mud

In this film, as the Scottish team goes into action with the deep-sea drill, geologists on board tensely await the first samples. But then the computer crashes...