



# Jonathan Bird's Blue World

## Episode 14 • Killer Clams • Study Guide

Giant clams are no myth. In New England, people love clam chowder, but in the Pacific, some of the clams are as big as a suitcase! On a trip to Micronesia, Jonathan goes in search of Giant Clams. These clams are so big that people used to think they caught people...and it almost looks like they could. It turns out that the problem is too many people eating the clams.

### Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to the biology of the *Tridacna* (giant) clam.
2. Discusses the problem of overfishing by demonstrating how long it takes clams to grow.
3. Takes viewers on a dive to see giant clams in the wild as well as an aquaculture site in Micronesia.

### Questions for before watching the program

1. In old episodes of *Sea Hunt*, not to mention many cartoons, giant clams are shown grabbing swimmers and divers. What do you think? Fact or fiction? Do they exist? Can they grab people?
2. How do clams eat?
3. How big do you think a clam can get?

### Discussion for after watching the program

1. Where are *Tridacna* clams found?
2. Why are *Tridacna* clams disappearing from reefs?
3. What does a *Tridacna* clam eat? How is the sun important to these animals?
4. Find Kosrae, Micronesia on a map. That's where the clam farm is. Why is that a great place to grow giant clams?
5. How long does it take a clam to become a "giant?" What does that say about their use as food for people?
6. Can a giant clam *really* grab a person?