



Invasive Species • Study Guide

In this exciting Blue World adventure, Jonathan travels to the St. Lawrence river in upstate New York and the island of St. Thomas in the Caribbean to investigate invasive species like zebra mussels and lionfish and how they affect the ecosystems into which they have been introduced.

Objectives

1. Introduces viewers to the concept of an invasive species and its effect on the environment.
2. Illustrates a few notable examples of aquatic invasive species and their specific environmental effects.
3. Shows the difficulty in controlling invasive species and explains why the best option is not to introduce them in the first place.

Questions for before watching the program

1. What is an *invasive species*?
2. Give an example of an invasive species.
3. In what ways can an invasive species effect an ecosystem? Can they be beneficial?
4. What are some ways that invasive species are introduced to an ecosystem?

Discussion for after watching the program

1. How do they think Zebra mussels and Round gobies were introduced to the St. Lawrence river?
2. What are some ways that ballast water invasives might be stopped?
3. What issues do Zebra mussels cause in the St. Lawrence? Do they have any benefits?
4. What are the issues caused by Round Gobies? Any benefits with them?
5. What is being done to try to stop the spread of Lionfish in the Caribbean?
6. What are the two arguments for and against the Lionfish threat in the Caribbean?
7. What is the best way to control invasive species of any kind?
8. How do people think Lionfish were introduced into the Caribbean?
9. Why do people consider the Lionfish a threat in the Caribbean?