



INVASIVE SPECIES: WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE



NAME: _____ DATE: _____ BLOCK: _____

Background Information:

An **invasive species** is a species that is not native to an ecosystem and causes damage to the environment, economy, or human health. Any type of organism can be invasive. Thus, an invasive species can be a plant, animal, fungus, or even bacteria.

Invasive species usually introduced by humans either on purpose or by accident. The introduction of nonnative plants and animals can cause great damage to the ecosystem and native wildlife. For instance, the invasive species may out compete native species which can lead to loss of biodiversity. Human health can also be effected. Some invasive species carry diseases. For example, the Asian Tiger Mosquito can carry the West Nile virus.

Other species, such as the hemlock plant, are poisonous to humans. Yet another consequence of introducing invasive species is economic. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that invasive species cost the United States over **100 billion dollars** in damages every year.



TASK:

1. Go around the room and read and take notes **(NOT PICTURES)** of "The Dirty Dozen: the 12 Most Destructive Invasive Species in the United States."
2. You will choose **ONE** of the 12, or one of your own choosing. **SEE CHOICES BELOW!**
3. Next, conduct further research about that species. *Use only reliable internet sources!*
4. You will then create a **"WANTED"** poster to showcase its invasive characteristics.
 - ☐ Country of origin
 - ☐ Habitat of the Invasive Species
 - ☐ Problems they cause
 - ☐ Why are they successful?
 - ☐ How do humans control them?

Didn't like the "Dirty Dozen?" Try looking into these interesting invasive species!



The Wanted Poster:

Your poster must include:

- Taking the role of a Wildlife Officer who is seeking a criminal and wants justice!
- Have dialect and modeling of a Wild West Wanted poster *yee-haw!*
- A **digital photo** or **hand drawn picture** of your invasive species (colored or black and white)
- Must include the species **scientific** and **common** name
- Must include DETAILED facts that describes the "crime of the species"
- **BE CREATIVE!**

Africanized Bee
Argentine Ant
Asian Carp
Asian Longhorn Beetle
Brown Anole
Cane Toads
Cuban Tree Frog
European Hedgehog
European Red Fox
German Yellow Jacket
Giant African Snail
Japanese Beetle
Kudzu
Mallard Duck
Mongoose
Red Imported Fire Ant
Ship Rat
Spiny Water Flea
Tumbleweed
Zebra Mussel

THE RESEARCH:

1. Species Common Name: _____
2. Species Scientific Name: _____
3. Native Geographical Location/Habitat: _____
4. Invaded Geographical Location/Habitat: _____
5. Date of introduction (when did it get here?) _____
6. What is the species preferred **habitat**?

7. How was this species introduced? **Was the introduction intentional or accidental?** EXPLAIN!

8. **Identification:** Briefly describe key features of your organism. The description should have enough detail so that any person can easily identify this species if seen.

9. **Life Cycle:** Describe or include a picture of the species life cycle.

10. Consequences of Introduction: List the different negative impacts that your invasive species is responsible for doing.
 - a. **Impact on Ecosystems:**

 - b. **Impact on Economy:**

 - c. **Impact on Human Health:**

11. **Why are they successful?** Does the species have an adaptation that makes them hard to kill? Can they tolerate cold or harsh climates? Do they breed quickly and often? Why are they hard to get rid of?

11. **Methods of control:** How can we get rid of the current population?

12. **Prevention Methods:** How can we prevent more invasions from this organism?

13. **Laws & Regulations:** Are there any laws that exists to help stop the spread of this invasive species?

Works Cited website #1

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Author's Name:
Article Title:
Website Publisher:
Date Published
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Works Cited website #2

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