



**STEM CLASSROOM ACTIVITY**

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# INVASIVE SPECIES "WANTED" POSTER

Student Handout



## ASSIGNMENT

# ATTACK OF THE INVASIVE SPECIES



**Your mission is to mount a counter-attack on your chosen invasive species. In order to do this, you will need to:**

- Research your assigned species by reading the articles provided.
- Create a wanted poster that advertises and spreads the word about your species and the dangers it may cause.

**You have the option of working with ONE other person or working individually. Please decide what you will do and indicate it below:**

I will be working individually

I will be working with \_\_\_\_\_

# NOTES ON YOUR INVASIVE SPECIES

Write notes below or, for more space, on a separate sheet of paper:

1. Species Name

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2. What it is (physical & behavioral description)

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3. Where it came from originally

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4. Where it is invasive

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5. How it got there

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6. Why its population is not being kept in check (Include description of invaded environment)

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7. How growth can be controlled (*Your* ideas)

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**8. How growth has been controlled** (Initiatives taken by invaded country/region)

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**9. Evolutionary ancestry/related species**

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**10. Works Cited**

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# GRADING RUBRIC

## INVASIVE SPECIES WANTED POSTER

Student/Partner Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Species Name: \_\_\_\_\_

FINAL SCORE

**/30**

Project Requirements	Category/Description	Points Possible	Points Earned
<b>Wanted for</b>	These are specific “crimes” of your invasive species. What is the location it has invaded, and how is it harming the habitat it has invaded? Include both abiotic and biotic factors.	5	
<b>Description</b>	Color, weight, and distinguishing characteristics. Include a printed or drawn photo of the organism.	2.5	
<b>Modus Operandi (Mode of Operation)</b>	Why is the invasive location an ideal breeding ground for the species? How did your invasive species get to this new habitat? And how did it take over the environment?	5	
<b>Arrest Report</b>	When was it discovered in its new habitat? Was its introduction to this habitat accidental or deliberate?	5	
<b>Warning</b>	How can its growth be controlled? Include initiatives that the country of invasion has taken against it.	5	
<b>Creativity</b>	Poster is creative, colorful, attractive, eye catching, and follows a “wanted poster” format.	2.5	
<b>Originality</b>	Written in your own words and easy to understand.	2.5	
<b>Works Cited</b>	All sources (aside from the article you were provided) are cited in MLA format on the back of the poster.	2.5	
	<b>Poster Score</b>	<b>30</b>	

# INVASIVE SPECIES

## CHOICES & DESCRIPTIONS



From [www.AntWeb.org](http://www.AntWeb.org)

### Red imported fire ant in China (*Solenopsis invicta*)

Native to South America, it has invaded 4 provinces on mainland China. These ants have had major social and economic impacts, including on local ecosystems and on people who are stung by the insect.

### Water hyacinth in China (*Eichhornia crassipes*)

Invasive to 17 Chinese provinces, controlling the plant has cost the country nearly \$12 million US dollars per year. It is a weed so it spreads quickly, and has threatened native agriculture, transportation, and fisheries.



### Cottony cushion scale in Ecuador (*Icerya purchasi*)

Invasive to the Galapagos Islands of Ecuador, the insect causes extensive plant damage by extracting sap from its host. Resulting defoliation and potential plant/host death can lead to a reduction in productivity of many fruit and forest trees nearby, causing a detrimental change in the local food web.



*Icerya purchasi* by [Lucarelli](#)



## Common raccoon in Germany (*Procyon lotor*)

Although not native to Germany, the common raccoon was introduced to the region in the early 1900s to be bred for its pelt. However, its introduction into the wild for hunting has led to a population explosion that now numbers over 1 million.



Neovison vison by [Charles J Homler](#)

## American mink in Iceland (*Neovison vison*)

Now invasive to nearly 28 European countries, the American mink was introduced to non-native regions for fur farming but deliberate release into the wild caused its population to grow rapidly and largely unchecked. Its growth has had a huge impact on local food webs, particularly ground-nesting birds, rodents, and amphibians.

## Alaskan lupine in Iceland (*Lupinus nootkatensis*)

Brought to Iceland in the late 1800s, the plant was deliberately spread to halt soil erosion by its ability to put nitrogen back into the soil. However, it was able to outcompete Iceland's native plants for space and as a result, spread very quickly.



Iceland Nootka Lupine Flower by [Anjali Kiggall](#)



Johnson grass by [Daniel VILLAFRUELA](#)

## Johnson grass in England

(*Sorghum halepense*)

Native to the Mediterranean region, Johnson grass was introduced to Europe as a way to halt erosion as well as for animal feed. However, its property as a weed combined with its resistance to a common herbicide has made it one of the worst invasive species.

## Lionfish in Costa Rica

(*Pterois*)

Although they were only introduced to Costa Rica in 2009, the coincidental decline of many other fish species in the region spurred the government to begin taking immediate action against lionfish. One way to reduce their population is to fish and then deep-fry them as food!



Red Lionfish by [Alexander Vasenin](#)



[Penaeus monodon](#)

## Asian tiger shrimp in Costa Rica

(*Penaeus monodon*)

Widely cultured around the world as food, the Asian tiger shrimp may have a hugely negative impact on fish production in Costa Rica. It feeds on larvae and other types of shrimp, and its lack of natural predators has many locals concerned about overgrowth.



# GALLERY WALK

## INVASIVE SPECIES WANTED POSTERS

Species Name	Crimes (Why it's harmful)	From Where to Where?	Description of invaded environment

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**GAIN A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE IN TODAY'S INTERCONNECTED WORLD**



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