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Invasive Species



What is an invasive species?

An **invasive species** is any living thing that is NOT from a certain place but can damage it. Most of the time, nothing eats the invasive species and therefore, it can **reproduce** very quickly.

Fun Fact!

In order for people to trade animal furs, possums were introduced to New Zealand in 1837. Currently, from their treetop homes, the 35 million nocturnal possums will eat 12,000 tons of vegetation over the course of one night, making them New Zealand's #1 most wanted villain.

How does a species find a new home and become invasive?

Invasive species are brought to a new place either accidentally or on purpose. Sometimes, living things get onto a plane, boat or truck and travel great distances. When it arrives, the species jumps off into its new home.



Other times, people think a certain animal or plant would look nice or be a good pet so they move it from one place to another.

Invasive Species – A living thing that is brought into a new area and causes damage to the environment.

Reproduce – To have children.

What damage can an invasive species do?

Ecobottle Sample



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Preventing and getting rid of invasive species

Invasive species are very hard to get rid of but listed below are the best ways to deal with them.

1. Stop them from arriving in the first place.
2. Studying the invasive species to try to find out how to limit their destruction.
3. Get rid of the invasive species by:
 - destroying their homes and removing their food.
 - bringing in other animals that will eat them.

Examples of the most destructive invasive species

Plants:

- Kudzu: A vine from Japan and China. It was first brought to the United States in 1876 because of its sweet-smelling flowers and large leaves. Kudzu however, grows about a foot per day and costs the United States Government six million dollars per year to keep it under control.

Animals:

- The Small Asian Mongoose: Was brought to Hawaii in the 1880s to kill the rats. Instead, the mongoose decided to eat the local birds and turtles. Currently they cause about \$50 million dollars in damages per year.

Habitat – Where a living thing lives.

Reading Comprehension Questions:

1. What is
2. What allows invasive species to do so much damage?
3. How has
4. Out of the
5. Bringing in new species to hunt and kill the original invader is a popular way to get rid of invasive species. What main problem do you see with this?
6. How

Extension Questions:

7. Why do you think it is so difficult for New Zealand to get rid of the Possums?
8. Using your

Ecobottle Sample



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