

Invasive Species

A mini Web Quest & PowerPoint Presentation

Standard 3: Life Science:

- Students know and understand the characteristics and structure of living things, the processes of life, and how living things interact with each other and their environment.

Benchmark 3.9-12.6:

- Knows about the diversity and unity that characterize life.

In this assignment, you will:

- Gather some background information about the relationships of organisms in an ecosystem.
- Select and research an invasive species of your choice.
- Prepare and present a PowerPoint presentation about the invasive species.

Part 1: Textbook Assignment

Read page 104 of your textbook and respond to the following questions in your journal.

1. In an ecosystem, what does the term “dominant species” refer to?
2. Describe the situation that took place in the early 1900’s when a non-dominant fungus was introduced to the native chestnut trees in the United States.
3. Why do organisms such as the gypsy moth or the spruce budworm pose such a devastating problem in the United States?
4. Describe why the starfish *Pisaster* is considered a “keystone” species.

Part 2: Selection of a report topic

There are numerous invasive species that have created devastating effects throughout the world. You will need to select a species and prepare a PowerPoint presentation to be given in class. Each student must report on a different species. The following will help guide you in the selection process:

- Go to the web site <http://www.invasivespecies.gov>
- Read the information on this page and then click on the “Species Profile”
- Browse the list of almost 80 species to select one that interest you.
- Sign-up on the sheet on the teachers’ desk! (remember only one person/species)
- On the next page are some examples of “Invasive Species”!

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Plant: Purple star thistle



Terrestrial animal: Brown Tree Snake

Part 3: Research and preparation of a PowerPoint Presentation

- Each student will prepare a short PowerPoint presentation about his/her selected invasive species.
- Notice that once you move to the individual species page, there are numerous links (up to 20), in the following categories: Federal Government, State Government, University/ Academic, International, and Organizations.
- Follow the rubric listed below for information to be included in the report.
 - Do not repeat an image (picture) in your report.
 - Keep the text (wording) to less than 25 words on any one page
 - The report is worth 20 points.
- Four reports will be given each day. The sign-up sheet for presentation times is on the teachers' desk.

Invasive Species PowerPoint report rubric			
Slide Order	Topics	Image	Points
1	What is the common name?	x	2
2	What is the scientific name?	x	2
3	Short description of the organism	x	3
4	Where is its native range?	map	2
5	Where is it a problem?	map	2
6	Why is it a problem?	x	3
7	What can be done to solve the problem?		2
8	Any other special information about the organism.	x	2
9	Sources of information....		2