

INVASIVE SPECIES

INVASIVE SPECIES

LESSON PLAN

Week at a Glance:

Day One: What Is An Invasive Species?

Day Two: Burmese Python

Day Three: Lionfish

Day Four: Cane Toad

Day Five: Green Iguana

INVASIVE SPECIES

LESSON PLAN

Day Two: Burmese Python

Objective: The students will be able to identify various characteristics of a Burmese Python and explain how it is invasive.

LESSON PLAN: DAY TWO

Introduction (5 minutes):

Teacher Says: The first animal species we are going to learn about is the Burmese Python. Burmese Pythons are one of the largest snakes in the world. They are originally from Asia, but some were brought to Florida as pets. When owners released them in the wild, they became invasive in the Florida

INVASIVE SPECIES

BURMESE PYTHON UNSCRAMBLE

Directions: Unscramble each word associated with a Burmese Python.

SCIESA _____

SKEAN _____

NOHTPY _____

FLRIDOA _____

SWMPA _____



INVASIVE SPECIES

CANE TOAD RESEARCH

Directions: Use your resources to find more information about Cane Toads. Fill in the information below.

By _____

Appearance _____

die _____

Interesting Facts _____



INVASIVE SPECIES

FACT OR FICTION?

Directions: Color the Facts in green. Color the statements that are fiction in red.

Lionfish are mammals. _____

They have venomous spines. _____

Lionfish are found in Florida. _____

They are top fish. _____

INVASIVE SPECIES

IGUANA



have

A FIVE DAY UNIT ALL ABOUT INVASIVE SPECIES!

Includes lesson plans, graphic organizers, craft ideas, projects, comprehension questions and more!

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT



INVASIVE SPECIES

LESSON PLAN

Week at a Glance:

Day One: What Is An
Invasive Species?

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Python

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INVASIVE SPECIES



LESSON PLAN

Day One: Intro to Invasive Species

Objective: The students will be able to define what it means to be an invasive species and identify examples.



LESSON PLAN: DAY ONE

Introduction (5 minutes):

*Teacher Says: Make a prediction: What do you think an invasive species is? An invasive species is a plant, animal, or other living thing that is brought to a place where it doesn't typically live and then spreads quickly, potentially causing harm to their environment. Why do you think invasive species might cause harm to their environment? Invasive species can take space and food away from native animals, or animals who belong to an area naturally. They can also damage forests, lakes, farms, and change entire ecosystems. Invasive species can also spread diseases that the native animals might not be able to fight off. How do you think we reduce invasive species?

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Lesson (20 minutes):

- *The students will watch the video, "Invasive Species 101" from National Geographic -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYNATwlc7hI>

- *The teacher will guide the students in completing the "Vocabulary Square". They will define the word "invasive", write a sentence using the word and draw a picture.

Independent Work (10 minutes)

- *The students will complete the "Invasive Species Quick Check" comprehension questions attached below. The teacher will assess answers for understanding of the lesson.

Closing (5 minutes)

- *Whole Group Discussion: What makes an animal species invasive? How do they cause harm to environments? How can we help to reduce the harm they cause?

INVASIVE SPECIES

VOCABULARY SQUARE

Word:

invasive

Definition:

Sentence:

Picture:

INVASIVE SPECIES

INVASIVE QUICK CHECK

1. What does it mean to be invasive?

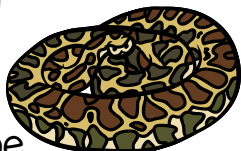
2. What are examples of invasive animals?

3. How can invasive species cause harm?

INVASIVE SPECIES

LESSON PLAN

Day Two: Burmese Python



Objective: The students will be able to identify various characteristics of a Burmese Python and explain how it is invasive.

LESSON PLAN: DAY TWO

Introduction (5 minutes):

*Teacher Says: The first animal species we are going to learn about is the Burmese Python. Burmese Pythons are one of the largest snakes in the world. They are originally from Asia, but some were brought to Florida as pets. When owners released them in to the wild, they became invasive in the Florida everglades. Burmese Pythons eat many native animals like rabbits, birds, raccoons, opossums, and sometimes small alligators. They spread extremely quickly because of the warm climate and the fact that they don't have many natural predators. Why do you think releasing pets in to the wild can be dangerous? What might happen if there are too many pythons?

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Lesson (15 minutes):

*The students will watch the video, "Snake Charmers" from National Geographic Kids - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=23HsHERFaKO>

*Partner Discussion after video - What did you learn about the Burmese Python? Why are people trying to research more about them?

*The students will complete the "Burmese Python Unscramble" in small groups.

Independent Work (10 minutes)

*The students will research more about the Burmese Python. They will utilize the "Python Research" activity sheet to record information. Students can extend the activity by creating a poster or writing a nonfiction writing piece.

Closing (5 minutes)

*The students will share their "Python Research" activity sheets with the whole group.

INVASIVE SPECIES

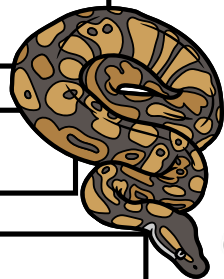
BURMESE PYTHON UNSCRAMBLE

Directions: Unscramble each word associated with a Burmese Python.

S C L E S A

S K E A N

N O H T P Y

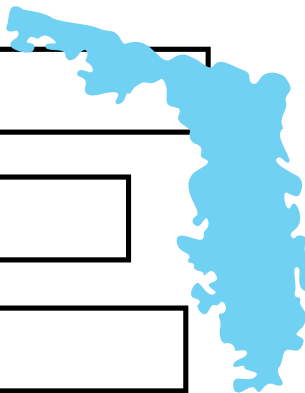


F L R I D O A

S W M P A

W L D I

R P E T L I E



INVASIVE SPECIES

PYTHON RESEARCH

Directions: Use your resources to find more information about the Burmese Python. Fill in the information below.

**BURMESE
PYTHON**

By:

Appearance

diet

HABITAT

Interesting Facts



INVASIVE SPECIES

LESSON PLAN



Day Three: Lionfish

Objective: The students will be able to describe characteristics of a Lionfish and what makes their species invasive..

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LESSON PLAN: DAY THREE

Introduction (5 minutes):

*Teacher Says: Today, we are going to investigate more about another species that lives in the ocean called a lionfish. Before we start, record what you already know about lionfish on the K-W-L sheet attached. Lionfish are beautiful fish with long, striped fins and venomous spines. Why do you think they are called lionfish? Lionfish get their name because of their long, flowing fins that look like a lion's mane. Lionfish are originally from Asia and the Pacific Ocean but also now live in the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico. Why do you think they are invasive? Lionfish have become a problem because they eat many small native reef fish and shrimp. They eat so much that it can reduce the populations of native fish, disrupt coral reef food chains, and make it harder for reefs to stay healthy.

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Lesson (15 minutes):

- *The students will record what they would like to learn about Lionfish in the "Want to Know" category on the "Lionfish K-W-L" graphic organizer attached.

- *The teacher will read the book, "What is a Lionfish?". Questions to ask during/after reading - Why are lionfish considered an invasive species? Why don't many animals eat lionfish? What could happen if their population keeps growing?

Independent Work (10 minutes)

- *The students will complete the "Fact or Fiction?" activity worksheet attached below. They will color in the true statements in green and the false statements in red.

Closing (5 minutes)

- *The students will use their "K-W-L" graphic organizer to record the information that they learned from the lesson.

INVASIVE SPECIES

LIONFISH K-W-L

KNOW

WANT TO
KNOW

LEARNED

INVASIVE SPECIES

FACT OR FICTION?

Directions: Color the facts in green. Color statements that are fiction in red.

Lionfish are mammals.

They have venomous spines.

Lionfish are covered in fur.

Lionfish originally came from the Pacific Ocean.

Lionfish can harm coral reef ecosystems.

They are black fish.

Lionfish don't have many predators.

Lionfish can be pets.

INVASIVE SPECIES

LESSON PLAN

Day Four: Cane Toad



Objective: The students will be able to describe characteristics of Cane Toads and why they are invasive.

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LESSON PLAN: DAY FOUR

Introduction (5 minutes):

*Teacher Says: Today, we are going to be exploring more about Cane Toads. What do you already know about cane toads? Cane Toads are amphibians that are originally from Central and South America. They were brought to Australia to try to help control insects in sugar cane fields, but quickly became a major invasive species. Cane Toads didn't just eat pests in farm fields, they also ate many other things and spread too quickly. They became a problem because they are poisonous, they spread very quickly, they eat food that native animals need, and when predators eat them, the predators can die because they are poisonous.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Lesson (15 minutes):

*The teacher will show the video, "Venomous Cane Toads" from National Geographic - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rI81iLqIEV0>

*The teacher will lead the students in completing the "All About Cane Toads" graphic organizer attached below. The students will write four facts about Cane Toads in the circles on the worksheet.

Independent Work (10 minutes)

*The students will research more about lions. They will utilize the "Cane Toad Research" activity sheet to record information. Students can extend the activity by creating a poster or writing a nonfiction writing piece.

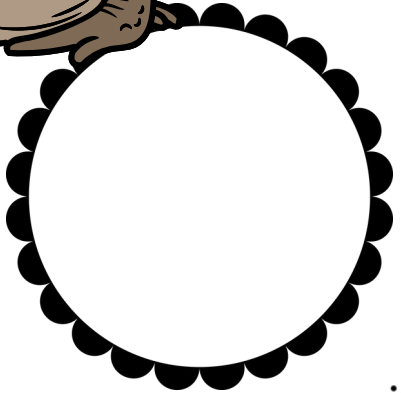
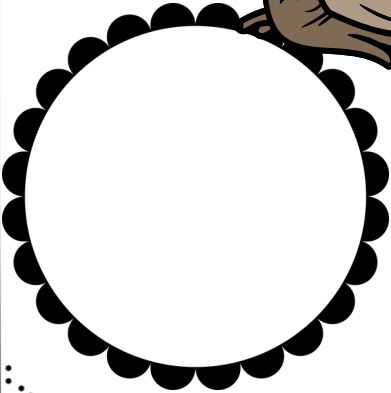
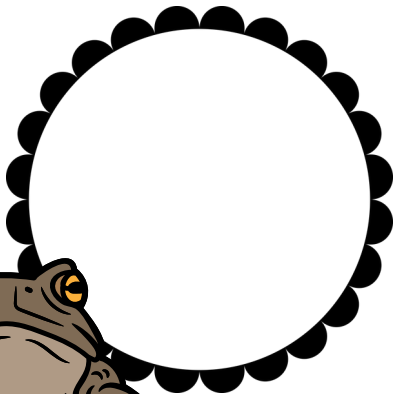
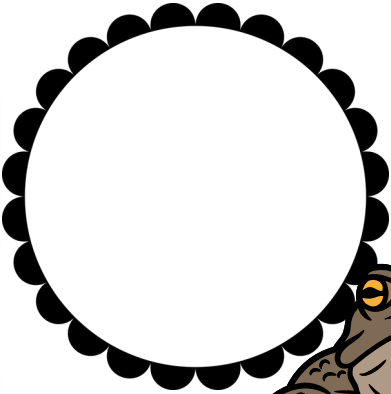
Closing (5 minutes)

*The students will share their "Cane Toad Research" activity sheets with the class or in small groups.

INVASIVE SPECIES

ALL ABOUT CANE TOADS

Directions: In the circles below, write down four facts about Cane Toads.



INVASIVE SPECIES

CANE TOAD RESEARCH

Directions: Use your resources to find more information about Cane Toads. Fill in the information below.

CANE TOADS

By:

Appearance

diet

HABITAT

Interesting Facts



INVASIVE SPECIES

LESSON PLAN

Day Five: Green Iguana

Objective: The students will be able to describe characteristics about Green Iguanas.



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LESSON PLAN: DAY FIVE

Introduction (5 minutes):

*Teacher Says: Today we are exploring more about another species called the Green Iguana. Green Iguanas are large lizards also from Central and South America, but were released or escaped in to Florida and became an invasive species. Why do you think they are an invasive species in Florida? Green Iguanas are a problem because they damage property, they eat many plants, they spread extremely quickly and they take food and space away from the native animals.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Lesson (15 minutes):

- *The teacher will read the book, "The Nature Kid's Guide to Iguanas: A Level 2 Reader for Curious Young Kids Who Love Iguanas!" Ask: What did you learn about iguanas from the book?

- *The teacher will guide the students in completing the "Green Iguanas can, have, are" graphic organizer attached below.

Independent Work (10 minutes)

- *The students will write a 3-5 sentence paragraph describing the green iguana using the attached writing template below. They will also draw a picture to match their writing!

Closing (5 minutes)

- *The students will share their green iguana writing paragraph with a small group or to the whole group.

INVASIVE SPECIES

GREEN IGUANA

can

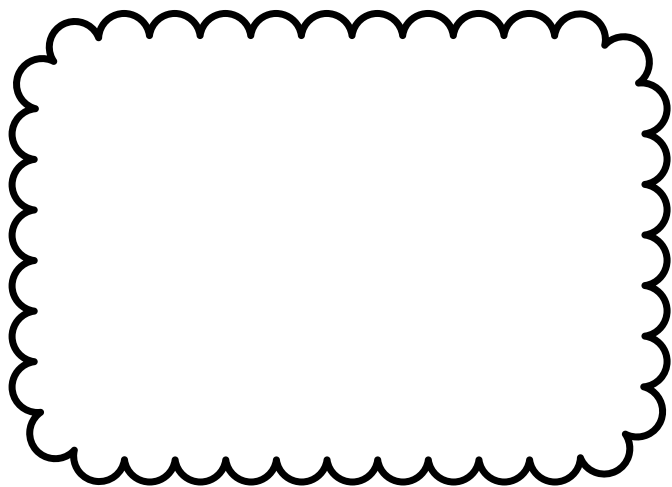
are



have

INVASIVE SPECIES

Green Iguana



Handwriting practice lines consisting of seven horizontal dashed lines.