

Wisconsin NatureMapping Asian Beetle Study

Developed by:

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Middle School

Activity 1: Introduction to Invasive Species

Lesson: Students will share what they know about invasive species and then take a fun quiz to see if they can identify which species are not native to Wisconsin.

Objectives: Students will be introduced to terms associated with invasive species and the history and ethical decisions facing biologists.

1. Define the term “invasive species”.
 - Have students work with a partner to write a definition for the term invasive species.
 - Groups will share their definition with the rest of the class and discuss the reasoning they used when writing the definition.
 - The teacher will then refine the students’ definitions to create a scientific definition.
 - The class should then discuss other terms used to describe invasive species (introduced species, exotic species, non-native, alien, etc.)
2. Students will take a “fun” quiz to see how many Wisconsin exotic species they can identify. You may have the students work with a partner or take the quiz individually. Then share the correct answers with the class.
3. Research – assign students different Wisconsin invasive species to research. Have them focus on how the species was introduced, how the species affects the ecosystem, and the methods used (if any) to control the species.
4. Hold a classroom debate. Debate the pros and cons of introducing the Asian lady beetle to control crop pests.

LINKS:

- Wisconsin Council On Invasive Species:
<http://invasivespecies.wi.gov/awareness/>
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – Invasive Species:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/>
- United States Department of Agriculture:
<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/br/lbeetle/>
- Michigan State University:
<http://www.ipm.msu.edu/beetleFAQ.htm>

Invasive Species Quiz

Put a check in the column to show if the plant or animal is an invasive species or a native species.

	Native	Invasive
Gypsy Moth		
Common Carp		
Longhorned Beetle		
Beaver		
Rusty Crayfish		
Purple Cone Flower		
Creeping Charlie		
Eurasian Milfoil		
Black Bear		
Scotch Pine		
Staghorn Sumac		
Purple Loosestrife		
Sugar Maple		
Yarrow		
Choke Cherry		
Horsetail		
Blackberries and Raspberries		
Nannyberry		
Ironwood		
Amur Maple		
Witch-Hazel		
Zebra Mussel		
White Perch		
Sea Lamprey		
Spiny Water flea		
Bloodroot		
Mute Swan		
Rainbow Smelt		
Wintergreen		
Tent Caterpillar		



Invasive Species Quiz (KEY)

Put a check in the column to show if the plant or animal is an invasive species or a native species.

	Native	Invasive
Gypsy Moth		4
Common Carp		4
Longhorned Beetle		4
Beaver	4	
Rusty Crayfish		4
Purple Cone Flower	4	
Creeping Charlie		4
Eurasian Milfoil		4
Black Bear	4	
Scotch Pine		4
Staghorn Sumac		4
Purple Loosestrife		4
Sugar Maple	4	
Yarrow	4	
Choke Cherry	4	
Horsetail		4
Blackberries and Raspberries		4
Nannyberry	4	
Ironwood	4	
Amur Maple		4
Witch-Hazel	4	
Zebra Mussel		4
White Perch		4
Sea Lamprey		4
Spiny Water flea		4
Bloodroot	4	
Mute Swan		4
Rainbow Smelt		4
Wintergreen	4	
Tent Caterpillar		4