

2002 Current Issue: Introduced Species and Their Effect on Biodiversity

Learning Objectives:

- Students will provide examples of intentionally and unintentionally introduced species and distinguish these from examples of species that arrived in an area with no apparent human assistance.
- Students will explain the effects of specific species introductions on biodiversity and human quality of life.
- Students will describe reasons for introducing species and discuss the particulars of several introduced species and their effects on the flora, fauna, soils, and waterways of the students' own communities.
- Students will define and use the concept of ecological niche.
- Students will list positive and/or negative effects of introduced species to an area. These can include economic costs, recreational benefits, and positive or negative effects on other species.
- Students will list several methods in which species have been transported or introduced to a local area.
- Students will cite examples of successful and unsuccessful management methods for particular invasive species.
- Students will explain how decisions are made to introduce and/or to prevent the spread of species and how citizens can affect these decisions.
- Students will identify groups of people affected by management decisions regarding species introduction such as nurserymen, foresters, ranchers, commercial fishermen, gardeners, fish hatchery managers, etc.
- Students will explain the differing views by various entities and organizations concerning management strategies, including differences in science and values.
- Where possible, students will identify practical management strategies for invasive species.
- Students will identify trade-offs in species management strategies.

For more information about this topic and a list of available resources, visit the Envirothon website (www.envirothon.org OR www.sfasu.edu/forestry/legg/envirothon).