



# Invader X

## STUDENT ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

### Materials Needed:

- Pencil or pen
- Paper, notebook, and/or note-taking device
- Field Guide or internet capable device
- Invasive Species Evaluation Sheet

### Introduction (Read before doing the activity)

In this lesson you have been learning all about invasive species and the characteristics that allow them to become invasive, such as their ability to grow and reproduce quickly. In this activity you will use your knowledge to create an invasive species of your own to exercise your thinking on how an invasive species works.

### Activity Instructions:

1. To create an invasive species, you will need to decide on your species characteristics. Figure out the following attributes and write them in your notes:
  - a. What type of organism will your invasive species be: a plant or insect? (Note: animals can be invasive as well, but for this activity please choose a plant or insect.)
  - b. Where did your species originate (where does it grow/live naturally)?
  - c. What type of ecosystem does your invasive prefer? Where does it thrive?
  - d. Where will your invasive species invade? What does the environment look like?
  - e. What predators does your species have - naturally and in the environment it invades?
  - f. How does your species reproduce?
  - g. When does your species reproduce? When is the "breeding season"?
  - h. How many offspring can your species have?
  - i. What does your species eat?
2. Next, draw your invasive species! Draw arrows pointing to the species' important structures for making it invasive (Example: reproductive structures like a flower or seeds on plants or wings on insects that allow them to fly far).

3. Create a field guide page for your species. If you have a printed field guide available, use this as an example of what needs to be included. If you don't have a printed field guide available, you can use this online guide as an example of what to include: <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide>. Your field guide should include your drawing of what your species looks like.
4. After creating your field guide page on your invasive species, evaluate how effective your species will invade by answering the questions on the *Invasive Species Evaluation* sheet.
5. Now that you have created an invasive species, what method of control would work best for your invasive? Write down your thoughts in your notes.

## Conclusion

Hopefully through this activity you have thought more about how an invasive species spreads and the common characteristics of an invasive species. Congrats on furthering your knowledge of the environment!

