

<p><b>Age:</b> 10-14</p> <p><b>Time:</b> 2 hours of teamwork</p>	<p><b>Which Aliens Live Near Me?</b></p> <p>Investigate your local invasive species and pick one to learn about in-depth.</p>
<p><b>You will need:</b></p> <p>Internet access</p>	
<p><b>Step 1:</b> Which invasive species are living in your neighborhood? If you don't know, you can find out. A good place to start is the <a href="#">US Department of Agriculture's Web site</a>. Choose your state, and then look at each category of invasive: aquatic, plant or animal. You may recognize one of the aliens from your neighborhood!</p> <p><b>Step 2:</b> Choose a local invasive species and learn more about it. You can do this on the same Web site, or wander farther afield. Find out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where did it come from?</li> <li>• How and why was it introduced?</li> <li>• What are its natural enemies?</li> <li>• Where has it spread?</li> <li>• What effects has it had on other wildlife, humans and the economy?</li> </ul> <p><b>Step 3:</b> Think about your chosen species from a climate-change perspective. Temperatures are rising around the world, and there are more extreme weather events than in the past. To learn more about potential climate change impacts on different types of ecosystem, visit the <a href="#">National Geographic Web site's habitat page</a>.</p> <p>How will these changes affect the ecosystems of the invasive species?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will rising temperatures help it thrive?</li> <li>• What will happen to it if there is a lot more rain, or a lot less? Will drought or flooding affect them? How?</li> <li>• Would your chosen species spread across the country more or less if these weather changes occurred? For example, kudzu originally comes from a hot, humid climate. Would it do better if there were more rain or less? If temperatures rose or fell?</li> </ul>	