







<p>Age: 7-11 years</p> <p>Time: 45 minutes</p>	<p>Invasive Species Publicity Activity Guide: Speak Up!</p> <p>People need to be aware of invasive species so that they won't make the problem worse. For example, most people are unaware that earthworms, while good for the earth in some areas, shouldn't be moved. They don't belong in forests, because they change the texture of the earth, disturbing the balance for forest plants.</p>
<p>You will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tagboard, one for each participant • Pencils for sketching out ideas • Images of the chosen invasives taken from a Web site or printed matter from park authorities (brochures can be used to cut out pictures) • Paint or markers • Adhesive tape or staplers 	
<p>Make People Aware of Your Invasive</p> <p>What do people need to know about your chosen invasive species? That they shouldn't transport it? That they should report sightings to the local parks authorities? Public awareness is a big part of controlling the spread of invasives, and you can help.</p> <p>For example, people who like boating may not know that when they move their boats from one lake to another, they may have stowaways: invasive weeds that cling to the boat's hull or propeller. Boaters in these areas should hose off their boats as they leave the lake.</p> <p><i>Produce a poster to let people know. Make it colorful, show what the invasive looks like, and use just a few words. So a poster could say "Move Your Boat, Not The Weeds!" and include a picture of the weed, and a drawing of a boat being hosed off. Another idea would be to publicize a weed-pulling event at your county park that's planned.</i></p> <p>Post your poster in your school, community center, or another area where people will see it. You will have done your part to help control the spread of invasives!</p>	



<p>Age: 7-11 Time: 15 Minutes</p>	<p>Debate activity: Are wild cats an invasive species? What about these other creatures we see every day?</p>
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Where did these creatures come from? Why and how did they come?

<p>Honeybee</p> 	<p>Earthworm</p> 
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<p>Soybean</p> 	<p>English Sparrow</p> 
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<p>Japanese Beetle</p> 	<p>Horse</p> 
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<p>Dandelion</p> 	<p>Cat</p> 
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These species were introduced to the United States from their native habitats. Are they invasive? Why or why not? Does everyone agree if they are invasive or not?

People sometimes disagree about whether a species is invasive, and the question can vary from place to place, and over time. For example, cats have been domesticated for thousands of years. Egyptian pharaohs kept them as pets. But if abandoned, cats will quickly adapt and become wild. After that they are called feral cats. Feral cats can be destructive, eating all the wild birds in their area. So are cats an invasive species? What do you think? Why? It's OK if you have different opinions. Scientists disagree, too!