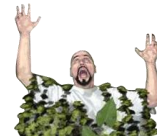
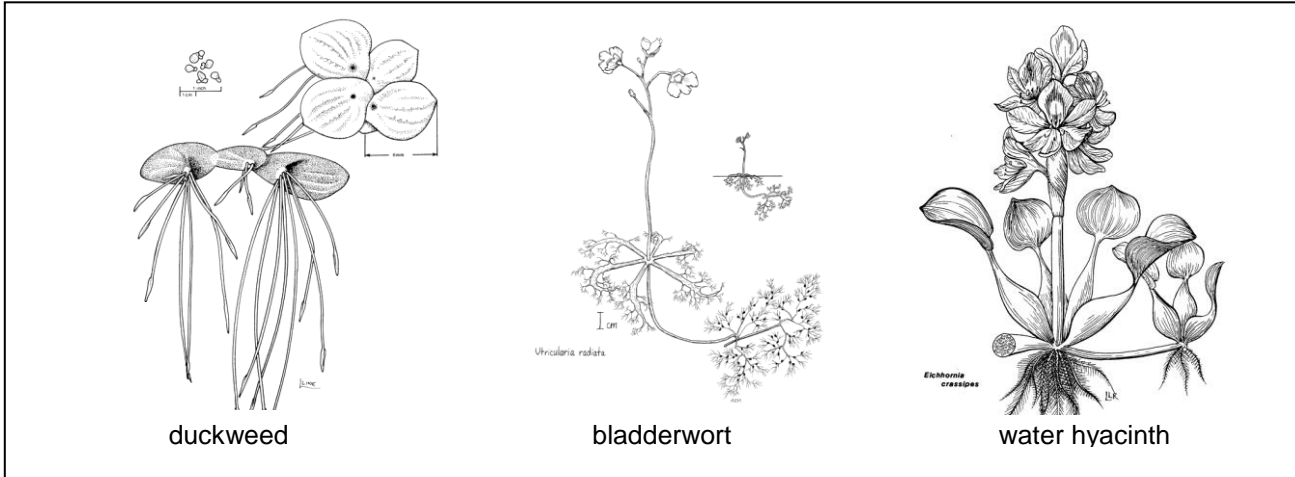


Module 1 ~ Silent Invaders (UE/MS)  
**Free-floating Plants Reading Activity**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions: Read the passage and use the information you've learned to answer the questions below in complete sentences.**



**Free-floating** plants are not anchored in the sediment; they get their nutrients directly from the water. Free-floating plants include duckweeds and some bladderworts. Water hyacinth is a free-floating plant but it also happens to be extremely **invasive** in Florida waters (causing environmental and economic harm).

Water hyacinth is considered "the worst aquatic weed in the world" because it has invaded the waterways of many countries. When conditions are right, water hyacinth can grow extremely well and is capable of completely covering the surface of a waterbody.

There are very few free-floating plants compared to the number of submersed plants that exist in the world. Florida's native plants include the world's smallest flowering plant (known as watermeal) and both the small duckweed and giant duckweed. All three are free-floating plants.

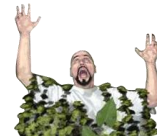
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**Free-Floating Plants Reading Activity Silent Invaders (UE/MS) – answer in complete sentences.**

1. What characteristics describe a free-floating plant?



Module 1 ~ Silent Invaders (UE/MS)  
**Free-floating Plants Reading Activity**



2. Name two examples of a free-floating plant.
3. Which statement supports why water hyacinth is considered "the worst aquatic weed in the world"?
4. What is a distinction that you can make between a free-floating plant and a submersed plant?

**Sources:**

**UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants:** <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/>

**Plant Management in Florida Waters: An Integrated Approach:** <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/manage/>



Florida Invasive Plant Education Initiative • <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/education>  
A Collaboration of the UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants  
and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission / Invasive Plant Management Section

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