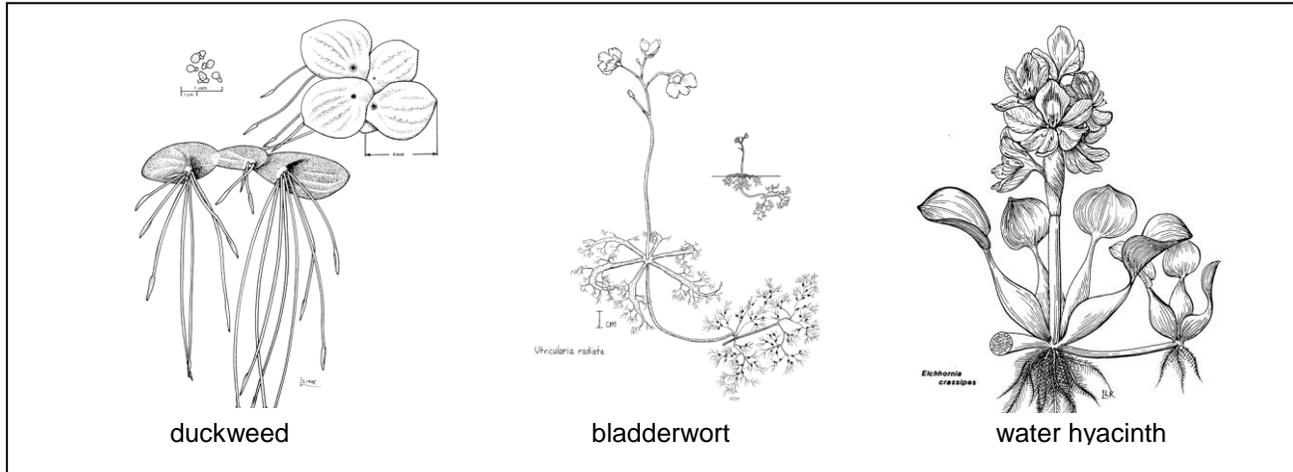# Answer Key – Free-floating Plants Reading Activity

Name: _____ Class Period: _____ Date: _____

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

| duckweed | bladderwort | water hyacinth |

       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.

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

1. What characteristics describe a free-floating plant?

   Free-floating plants are not anchored in the sediment and they get their nutrients directly from the water.

2. Name two examples of a free-floating plant.

   Two examples of free-floating plants are duckweeds and some bladderworts. Water hyacinth is also an acceptable answer.

3. Which statement supports why water hyacinth is considered "the worst aquatic weed in the world"?

   The statement that supports why water hyacinth is considered "the worst aquatic weed in the world" is that it has invaded the waterways of many countries.

4. What is a distinction that you can make between a free-floating plant and a submersed plant?

   A free-floating plant is above water whereas a submersed plant is underwater.

The following is a list of suggested standards that pertain to this activity. This list is provided as a reference to incorporate and expand upon as needed.

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards

4th Grade
SC.4.N.1.4: Recognize ways plants and animals, including humans, can impact the environment.

5th Grade
SC.5.L.17.1: Compare and contrast adaptations displayed by animals and plants that enable them to survive in different environments such as life cycles variations, animal behaviors and physical characteristics.

6th Grade
SC.6.L.15.1: Analyze and describe how and why organisms are classified according to shared characteristics with emphasis on the Linnaean system combined with the concept of Domains.

Common Core State Standards

4th Grade

Common Core Code	FL Common Core Code	Common Core Standard
RI.4.1	LAFS.4.RI.1.1	Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
RI.4.4	LAFS.4.RI.2.4	Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a grade 4 topic or subject area.
RF.4.3	LAFS.4.RF.3.3	Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
RF.4.4	LAFS.4.RF.4.4	Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
RF.4.4a	LAFS.4.RF.4.4a	Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.
L.4.4	LAFS.4.L.3.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

5th Grade

RI.5.1	LAFS.5.RI.1.1	Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
RI.5.4	LAFS.5.RI.2.4	Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 5 topic or subject area.
RF.5.3	LAFS.5.RF.3.3	Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
RF.5.4	LAFS.5.RF.4.4	Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
RF.5.4a	LAFS.5.RF.4.4a	Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.
L.5.4	LAFS.5.L.3.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 5 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

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IFAS Extension
Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants

Florida Invasive Plant Education Initiative • http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/education
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Answer Key – Free-floating Plants Reading Activity

6ᵗʰ Grade

RI.6.1	LAFS.6.RI.1.1	Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
RI.6.4	LAFS.6.RI.2.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.
L.6.4	LAFS.6.L.3.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 6 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
RST.6-8.4	LAFS.68.RST.2.4	Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to grades 6–8 texts and topics.

7ᵗʰ Grade

RI.7.1	LAFS.7.RI.1.1	Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
RI.7.4	LAFS.7.RI.2.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.
L.7.4	LAFS.7.L.3.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 7 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
RST.6-8.4	LAFS.68.RST.2.4	Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to grades 6–8 texts and topics.

8ᵗʰ Grade

RI.8.1	LAFS.8.RI.1.1	Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
RI.8.4	LAFS.8.RI.2.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.
L.8.4	LAFS.8.L.3.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words or phrases based on grade 8 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
RST.6-8.4	LAFS.68.RST.2.4	Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to grades 6–8 texts and topics.

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/