

# Module 1 ~ Silent Invaders (UE)

## Answer Key – Invasive Plants Reading Activity



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

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

In Florida, about 1,000 **non-native** plant species are growing in our natural areas and waters. They can survive in Florida's hot climate without watering and fertilizing. At least 130 of these species have been able to grow extremely fast and in great numbers. In some instances, they've outgrown or replaced native plant communities that have evolved together over long periods of time.

Some of these non-native species have taken over large sections of our natural areas, lakes and wetlands. This happens because the plant has been transported to Florida and away from its normal habitat's insect enemies, diseases, climate and other stresses that keep it under control in its native range.



When a non-native plant species causes harm to the economy or the environment, it is considered **invasive**. **Water hyacinth** is one example of an **invasive plant**. It reproduces so fast it can completely cover a river or lake in a matter of months and cause oxygen problems for fish and animals living in the water (ecological harm). It also prevents boaters from using the lake and spending money in the community (economic harm). This is definitely an invasive plant!

We can help by being responsible land managers and by learning which plants are invasive. Once we know, we need to be sure we don't plant them in our own yards or move them to new places. Helping remove invasive plants from state parks and natural areas can also be rewarding.

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### Invasive Plants Reading Activity (UE) – answer in complete sentences.

1. Of the 1000 non-native plant species growing in Florida, what percent of them are growing fast and in great numbers?

**Of the 1000 non-native plant species growing in Florida, 13% of them are growing fast and in great numbers? ( $130/1000 = 13/100 = 13\%$ )**

2. When is a plant considered invasive?

**When a non-native plant species causes harm to the economy or the environment, it is considered invasive.**



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3. Give an example of an invasive plant.  
**Water hyacinth is an example of an invasive plant.**
  
4. State two reasons why some non-native plants have thrived in Florida.  
(Students can choose two of any of the following choices.)
  - **Plant has been taken away from its normal insect enemies.**
  - **Plant has been taken away from its normal diseases.**
  - **Plant has been taken away from its natural climate.**
  - **Plant has been taken away from other stresses that keep it under control in its native range.**
  
5. How can we become responsible land managers?

**We can become responsible land managers by learning which plants are invasive. Once we know which plants are invasive, we will not plant or move them. We can also help by removing invasive plants from state parks and other natural areas.**

### LIST OF STANDARDS:

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.

#### 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.
RI.5.10	LAFS.5.RI.4.10	By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 4–5 text complexity band independently and proficiently.
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.

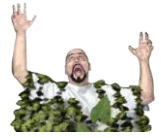


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L.5.4	LAFS.5.L.3.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 5 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
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**Sources:**

**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/>



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