

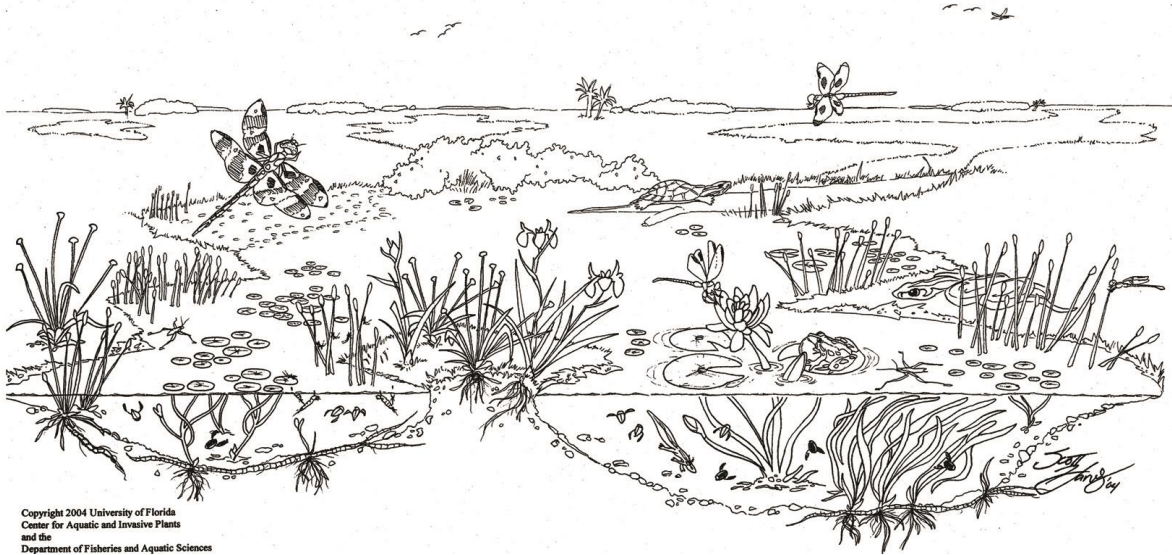
# Module 1 ~ Silent Invaders (UE)

## Native 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.**



Copyright 2004 University of Florida  
Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants  
and the  
Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

**T**here are more than 4000 species of plants found in Florida. About 3,000 of them are **native plants**. A native plant species is one that occurs naturally in an area, ecosystem, or habitat. In general, if a plant was living in Florida before the time of the explorer Christopher Columbus, it is considered native.

Native plants provide food and habitat for native animals and they help stop erosion on shorelines and in fields. Most native plant species grow in balance with other plants in their area. They do not take over because there are natural factors keeping them under control. These factors include bacteria, diseases, and climate (rainfall) and the growth of other native plants. Native animals and insects also eat native plants, which keeps them from becoming too abundant. When plants and animals live in balance there is biodiversity in the habitat. Florida is famous for its biodiversity.

---

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

1. List three benefits of native plants.



IFAS Extension  
Center for Aquatic  
and Invasive Plants



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

University of Florida © 2012, 2014

Module 1 ~ Silent Invaders (UE)  
**Native Plants Reading Activity**



2. What are some examples of natural factors keeping native plants under control?

3. What would happen to native plants if natural factors were nonexistent?

**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/>

