

Module 1 ~ Silent Invaders – National Version

Guiding Questions



Name: _____

Date: _____

Directions: Use these guiding questions, along with the Keywords Chart, to follow along while viewing the *Silent Invaders* presentation: <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/education>.

1. Species that live on dry land are known as **terrestrial** species.
2. Plant species that live in, on, or under the water are called **aquatic** species.
3. List three categories of aquatic plants and a brief description of each one:
 - a. **emersed – plants have roots underwater with part of the plant emerging (or rising) above the water;**
 - b. **floating-leaved – plants with leaves that float on the surface; roots aren't always anchored to the bottom;**
 - c. **submersed – plants grow with roots, stem and leaves completely underwater.**
4. Plant species already living here in the Americas before European explorers arrived around 500 years ago are called **native** species.
5. List at least two benefits of native plants:
 - a. **They provide food and shelter for animals;**
 - b. **They provide stability to our shorelines and fields.**
6. Plant species that are brought from their original historic range and introduced to a new area are called **non-native** species. In the Americas, it means plants brought here after or since the time European explorers first arrived.
7. List three ways that non-native plants are introduced to a new area:
 - a. **plants are sometimes accidentally mixed with leaf litter or farm crops;**
 - b. **plants hitch rides in ship ballast water, on boat propellers and trailers, in our luggage via airplanes, and even on tires;**
 - c. **some plants are brought here on purpose for use in agriculture and horticulture.**
8. Plants that are able to spread on their own and cause economic and/or ecological harm are called **invasive** plants.



Florida Invasive Plant Education Initiative • <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/education>
Aquatic Plant Management Society • <http://www.apms.org/>

9. List an economic problem and an ecological problem that invasive plants can cause:
- Economic – **Invasive plants can block a flood control structure leading to flooding.**
 - Ecological - **Invasive plants can cover up wildlife nesting areas, interfering with animal reproduction.**
10. Three invasive plants that are causing problems in the United States are:
- Hydrilla**
 - Kudzu**
 - Purple loosestrife**
11. Federal and state laws **prohibit** certain terrestrial and aquatic plants from being sold or purchased.
12. How can YOU help solve the problems caused by the Silent Invaders? (List at least 3.)
- Learn how to identify invasive plants;**
 - Never empty an aquarium into lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, or drainage ditches;**
 - Tell family and neighbors about invasive plants and the problems they can cause;**
 - Inspect your yard, woods, gardens, school or boats for invasive plants;**
 - Put invasive plants in household trash; do not compost;**
 - Landscape with only native or non-invasive plants;**
 - Volunteer to help remove invasive plants.**
13. TRUE OR FALSE: All non-native plants are invasive: **FALSE**

