

Unwanted Guest

Subject: Science

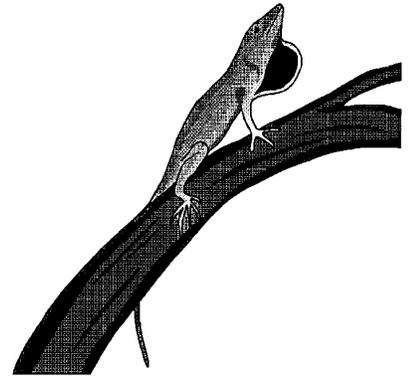
Duration: 30-45 minutes

Location: Classroom

Vocabulary: Exotic Species, Native Species

Related Activities: Go Back Home, Population Explosion, Break the Chain, Going...Going...Gone!, Everglades "Most Wanted," Fishy Business

Florida Sunshine State Standards: SC.D.2.2, S.C.G.1.2, SC.G.2.2, SS.B.2.2



Objectives. The students will be able to 1) define exotic species and list at least four, 2) define native species.

Method. Students will play a "guess who" game with native and exotic species found in Everglades National Park.

Background. Everglades is home to many species of animals, fifteen of which are considered endangered. The invasion of exotic species is a threat to native species. Removing exotics from the Everglades is expensive and not always successful.

Suggested Procedure

1. Have students review the plant and animal pest list and pictures.
2. Pin a photograph of an exotic or native species to each student's back without the student knowing what it is. Indicate to the student whether the species is exotic or native.
3. Instruct the students to mingle around the room asking their classmates five to ten "yes or no" questions about their species. The students can only ask each student one question. After they have asked a question they must move on to another student.
4. After students have asked their questions have them form a semi-circle so all can see. Choose one species and stand those children wearing that species card so that their backs are facing the group. Do not disclose the name of the species.
5. The students wearing the photo cards should tell the group as many things as they can about their species, including what species they think they are. If the students guess incorrectly, have the class help by describing some of the species' characteristics.
6. Repeat until all students have described their species.
7. After students have described their species, have them separate into 2 groups. One group should be exotic species and the other one should be native species.

Materials

- Laminated photo cards of native and exotic species
- Safety Pins

8. Once students are separated into the correct groups, have the students with an exotic species card locate the native species that they impact the most.

Evaluation

Discuss how exotic species impact native species. What can be done about this problem?

Extension

Have students research an exotic animal or plant in the Everglades.

Have students create a diorama of a habitat and how exotic species can impact it.