

ACTIVITY: “Wanted” Poster: Invasive Plants!

Elementary / Intermediate / Secondary grades (Ages 10 – 16)

A FUN ART AND RESEARCH ACTIVITY WHERE STUDENTS STUDY AN INVASIVE PLANT OF BC AND DESIGN A CREATIVE “WANTED” POSTER FOR THE PLANT.

Materials Needed:

- Poster Paper
- Felt Pens/Pencil Crayons, paints
- Field guide to invasive species or information from internet

Instructions:

1. Discuss the difference between native, introduced and invasive plants as a group. Then have each student select an invasive plant from your region and make a “*Wanted: Dead or Alive*” Poster about it. Sketch out an example on the board or on a flip chart page, to help students remember all the elements for the poster.

2. On the poster, have students include examples of how the four main distinguishing features of invasive plants are represented:

- they are usually prolific seed producers (many produce thousands of seeds)
- their seeds spread easily and effectively
- they establish and spread quickly
- they lack natural predators and diseases that generally keep their population under control in their native locations

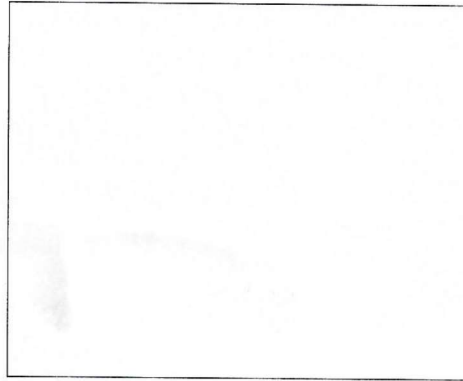
3. Also have students include on their poster: the plant’s common and Latin name (“known as”). The common name is the name that the plant is usually called by, while the Latin name is its scientific name (genus species). For example, purple loosestrife is known as *Lythrum salicaria*.

4. The poster should also include species characteristics (colour, shape, size, etc), “Crimes committed” (impacts it has on the ecosystem), “Last seen” (where it is found), and draw a picture of the plant.

Tell students to add as much humour as they’d like! Share your “Wanted” posters with your community: ask to make a display in your local community centre, library or mall.

WANTED

DEAD OR ALIVE



Name of suspect: _____

Description: (Colour, Shape, Size)	Crimes Committed: (Environmental Impacts)
Last Seen: (Where it is found)	How to stop it: (What can you do to stop it from spreading)

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