

Alien Invaders

Activity 4: Grades 5-8

Frontiers Pop Quiz



Enter correct quizzes in the FRONTIERS T-shirt drawing [see below!](#)

STUDENT:

TEACHER:

The Silence of the Birds

1. Why are the Guam rail and other birds native to Guam such easy prey for the brown tree snake?
 - a) by shooting all the snakes
 - b) by capturing and relocating the snakes
 - c) by releasing a flu-like virus to kill the snakes
 - d) by poisoning the snakes with a snake-specific toxin.
2. How does Don Nichols hope to eradicate the brown tree snake from the island of Guam?
 - a) by shooting all the snakes
 - b) by capturing and relocating the snakes
 - c) by releasing a flu-like virus to kill the snakes
 - d) by poisoning the snakes with a snake-specific toxin.

Green Invader

3. Name two reasons why the invasive alga *Caulerpa taxifolia* has gained such a foot-hold in the Mediterranean Sea?

4. What are two ways humans have helped to spread the invasive *Caulerpa* in the Mediterranean and in California?

5. What does Alex Meinesz think might be the best way to get rid of *Caulerpa* in the Mediterranean?
 - a) killing it with chemicals
 - b) introducing a non-native *Caulerpa*-eating slug
 - c) physically removing the algae
 - d) blocking the *Caulerpa*'s sunlight.

The Silken Tree Eaters

6. How are biologists attempting to keep the Asian longhorned beetle from spreading beyond New York City and Chicago?
 - a) chipping affected trees and treating nearby trees with pesticides
 - b) releasing a virus to kill the beetles
 - c) introducing a predator that eats the beetle
 - d) passing laws against trading with Asia

7. What was one unwelcome consequence of attempts to control gypsy moths biologically?

Dust Busting

8. How did the fungus killing the Caribbean sea fans arrive in the region?
 - a) brought over by ships
 - b) carried on the feet of tourists
 - c) accidentally released by scientists
 - d) carried on dust particles blown over from Africa

9. What human behavior may play a role in increasing the occurrence of the answer to Question #8?

10. According to new research, what human ailment might also be caused by the answer to Question #8?

NOTE: Quizzes with 100% correct answers can be entered by teachers only into our T-shirt drawing. FRONTIERS randomly selects 20 names after each program. Send all correct quizzes in one envelope, along with teacher's name, grade and course, school name and address, where the students watched the show (home or school), and the students' favorite segment. Mail to: FRONTIERS Quiz, Chedd-Angier Production Company, 70 Coolidge Hill Rd., Watertown, MA 02472.

Alien Invaders

Activity 4: Grades 5-8

Frontiers Pop Quiz



ANSWERS

The Silence of the Birds

1. The birds evolved in the absence of predators and therefore evolved no escape or defense mechanisms, such as flight or fear.
2. C

Green Invader

3. Fragments from one plant can quickly grow into new ones; No natural predators; Built-in toxins ward off any new predators; It blocks sunlight, killing its competition.
4. Transporting fragments on ships' anchors and fishing nets; Accidental release from private and public aquariums.
5. B

The Silken Tree Eaters

6. A

7. Introduced parasitic flies turned out to prefer native caterpillars to gypsy moth caterpillars, destroying native moth populations while having little affect on the gypsy moth.

Dust Busting

8. D
9. Clearing of land for farming.
10. Increased incidence of asthma in Caribbean people.