

Invasive Plant Species



North Bay

Name:

Date:



[Click for the Intro to Invasive Species with Mr. Dylan Video](#)

What's the Deal with Invasives?

Invasive Species are introduced in a number of ways for many different reasons. List some reasons why people would relocate a species.

All invasive species are exotic, meaning that they are not native, or did not originate, from the area that they are found. With this being said, not all exotic species are invasive. Explain this.

When might an exotic species be helpful to the environment? Please provide at least one example.

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Research

Here is a question we invite you to research: **To what extent do you have invasive species in your neighborhood?**

In order to answer this question scientifically, we are going to find and identify invasive plant species in your neighborhood and choose ONE to remove. Before you go outside, dress for the weather and . . .

- ▲ Skim this article and look at pictures at the end: [Taking On The Invaders Of Maryland](#)
- ▲ Print this journal (if you can) and grab a pencil (or your electronic device)
- ▲ Get a tape measure or ruler
- ▲ Have your [NorthBay Invasive Species Guide](#) ready.

Step 1. Walk around your backyard, neighborhood, schoolyard OR local park. During this walk, please identify invasive species. Here are some helpful hints:

- ▲ Invasives will often grow together and in close proximity, filling a space completely.
- ▲ In order to ensure correct identification, you can download a free plant identification app like iNaturalist, Leafsnap, or Plantifier. Speak to an adult before you do, however.
- ▲ Because plants change through the year, a good idea is to look at your plant using at least TWO different guides or apps to ensure it *really* is an invasive species.

Step 2. Record the names of FIVE invasive species you find. Rank them using a scale of 1- 5 by amount found. 1 = most common, 5 = least common.

Name of Invasive Species	Rank	Location(s)
ex. Multiflora Rose	1	Edge of forest, around playground

Step 3. Once you've identified the common invasive species nearby, choose ONE to remove later in this lesson for Action. NOTE: First be sure to get permission.

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Let's Analyze!

Step 4. What invasive species did you find? Please fill out [What Invasive Plant Species Did You Find](#) to share your top FIVE invasive species.

Step 5. SKETCH at least two of the invasive species you found.

Step 6. How do your findings compare with what other people found? Return to the Webpage and click on the LIVE Data Tab to see.

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Reflection

Reflection questions: Please tell us what you discovered and learned.

▲ What did you do?

▲ What did you discover? (Use your data as evidence)

▲ Why is it important to remove invasive species?

▲ Why is removing an invasive species and replacing it with native species even better?

▲ We focused on invasive plants, but what other types of organisms may be invasive in your area?

▲ What else are you wondering about invasive species?

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Character Connection

Invasive Species - A non-native species that spreads into a healthy ecosystem and takes over the resources needed by native organisms. This often leads to a degraded condition.

Degraded Condition - A reduction of quality or value.

An example of invasive species in your school community may be bullying. This could lead to a degraded condition of an unsupportive community. This could negatively affect social relationships and school work for both the bully and their victim.

- ▲ Describe something invasive in your life, community, or environment. This could be anything that reduces quality of life for you or your community, including time, money, effort, or attitude.

- ▲ How has this led to a degraded condition?

- ▲ What will you do to help alleviate this degraded condition?

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And now it is time for **ACTION!** What will you do?

Now that we have identified the invasive species in your neighborhood and maybe some in your personal life, let's take action!



[Watch Ms. Sam demonstrate](#) how this is done

Step 7. Identify the invasive plant species

Step 8. Use your ruler or tape measure to measure the area around the invasive species you will remove. Record the Area. _____

Reminder: **Area = length multiplied by width. ($A = L \times W$)** . To find the area, make an imaginary box around the area that you will be removing. Then measure the length and width and multiply them. Easy, right? One more step. Your units need to be in **square (sq)** units, like square feet or square yards or square meters.



Step 9. Put on your gloves and remove the plants. NOTE: When removing invasive plants, you will need to remove them by the root and bag them before throwing them away. This will prevent seed dispersal. This is a *critical* step in preventing the spread of invasive species because it will take away the ability of the plants to reproduce.

Please share your data [HERE!](#) (REFRESH webpage to see your LIVE data)

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[Watch Mr. Dylan](#) discuss how we can address the invasive species problem.

Give one or more of these ideas a try and tell us what you did!

Email: nbmedia@northbayadventure.org

Follow us on social media, and hashtag your posts #NorthBayEducation.

- ▲ **Teach others about invasive plants in your community!**
- ▲ **Volunteer during local invasive species removal efforts.**
- ▲ **Clean your hiking & fishing gear after each use so you don't spread invasives.**
- ▲ **Clean your pets after visiting a park.**
- ▲ **Don't move firewood from one town to another one.**
- ▲ **Clean your boat before transferring it to another body of water.**
- ▲ **Learn more about native plants so you can restore healthy habitat.**

Share your journal with teachers/mentors/friends!