



# Classroom Activity

## 10 Big Question: How will we conserve species diversity?

### Your Local Alien

Non-native species whose introduction causes harm to the environment, economic harm, or pose a threat to human health are known as invasive species. The most aggressive invaders tend to reproduce and grow quickly, causing major damage to the area. In this activity you will investigate an invader in your area to find out how it got there, what damage it has caused and what attempts have been made to control it.

To begin with, research invasive species around the world. Here are some questions to guide your research:

1. What sorts of species have been introduced around the world?
2. What sort of problems have they caused?
3. How did they get to their new environments?
4. Were they deliberately introduced or was it accidental?
5. What measures are being used to control them?
6. Have there been any introduced species that have been beneficial?

Now find an invasive species in your local area and try to find the answers to the following questions:

1. Where did it come from?
2. How did it get into your local habitat?
3. Where does it live?
4. What does it eat?
5. What threat does it pose to native species, crops, humans etc.?
6. Does it have any predators?
7. What methods are being used to control or eradicate it?

Present your findings on your chosen "local alien" in a poster, written report or as a multimedia presentation. Discuss as a group what lessons you think have come out of past experiences globally and locally with invasive species. What preventative measures now exist to limit non-native species entering your country or local area?