



# Classroom Activity

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

### Species Competition

Invasive species often compete with native species for the resources they need to live such as food and water. If the invasive species is more efficient at collecting these resources, it will ultimately lead to collapse of the native species. In this game, we'll demonstrate this competition in real time.

For this activity you will need:

- > Cardboard in three different colours cut into shapes or three different types of game pieces, and enough to allow each player to collect one of each type. Each type will represent one resource the species needs to survive. For animals this might be water, food and shelter
- > A large open area
- > Ribbon, badges or some other way of marking which player is an "invasive" species
- > A timer

### How to play

Each round the "native" players have 30 seconds to collect one of each resource. They must collect one at a time and return to the edge of the designated play area after each collection, remaining there once they have their three resources. If they can collect the three resources they need in the designated time, they have "survived".

"Invasive" players (designated by ribbon or some other method) can collect two chips on each collection and may return as many times as they can. They still need to collect one of each resource to survive, but as you can probably tell, they have more opportunity to do so!

Play takes three rounds:

1. Players are all native species
2. Nominate two players to be "invasive"
3. "Native" players who did not survive round 2 become "invasive"

What was your rate of native survival for each round? What happened as the number of "invasive" players multiplied?

This activity is adapted from: [www.thirteen.org/edonline/ntti/resources/lessons/battle/b.html](http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/ntti/resources/lessons/battle/b.html)