

Invasive Species **Activity**

Today we are going to learn about invasive species.

- What they are
- Why they are a problem
- How we can help to protect our wildlife and crops

Plants and animals on Montserrat

Our island is home to lots of different plants and animals.

Many have always been found in Montserrat and are called native species.



Some are very rare and not found in any other part of the world. It's very important that we look after them.

Plants and animals on Montserrat

There are other plants and animals that people have brought to Montserrat from other parts of the world, either by accident or on purpose.

Some are harmful to our native species or the plants that we grow for food – sweet potatoes, breadfruit, bananas and guava.

These harmful species are called invasive species.

Invasive species

Invasive species can harm other plants or animals by:

- Eating them.
- Eating their food or taking over the places that they live.
- Spreading diseases which harm them.

The problems they cause can also be very expensive.

Activity one: Native or Invasive

You are going to look at some plants and animals to work out:

- whether they are native or invasive species.
- what they are.

Native species have always been found on Montserrat. Some are very rare.

Invasive species have been brought to Montserrat by people and harm other plants and animals.

Activity one: Native or Invasive?

Answers

Activity one - answers



Image: Neil Phillips via Wikimedia commons

What is
this?

Is it native or
invasive?

Activity one - answers



Image: Neil Phillips via Wikimedia commons

Montserrat
oriole

Is this
native or
invasive?

Activity one - answers



Image: Neil Phillips via Wikimedia commons

Montserrat oriole

This is a
native
species

Activity one - answers



Image: Katja Schulz via Wikimedia commons

What is
this?

Is it native or
invasive?

Activity one - answers



Image: Katja Schulz via Wikimedia commons

Cucumber beetle

Is it native or
invasive?

Activity one - answers



Image: Katja Schulz via Wikimedia commons

Cucumber beetle

This is an
invasive
species

Activity one - answers



Image: Tim Vickers via Wikimedia commons

What is
this?

Is it native or
invasive?

Activity one - answers



Image: Tim Vickers via Wikimedia commons

Mountain chicken

Is it native or invasive?

Activity one - answers



Image: Tim Vickers via Wikimedia commons

Mountain chicken

This is a
native
species

Activity one - answers



Image: Pavel Kirillov via Wikimedia commons

What is
this?

Is it native or
invasive?

Activity one - answers



Image: Pavel Kirillov via Wikimedia commons

Ladybird

Is it native or
invasive?

Activity one - answers



Image: Pavel Kirillov via Wikimedia commons

Ladybird

This is a
native
species

Activity one - answers



Image: KoS via Wikimedia commons

What is
this?

Is it native or
invasive?

Activity one - answers



Image: KoS via Wikimedia commons

Frangipani
hawkmoth
caterpillar

Is it native or
invasive?

Activity one - answers



Image: KoS via Wikimedia commons

Frangipani
hawkmoth
caterpillar

This is an
invasive
species

Activity one - answers



Image: Siamese puppy via Wikimedia commons

What is
this?

Is it native or
invasive?

Activity one - answers



Image: Siamese puppy via Wikimedia commons

Lacewing

Is it native or
invasive?

Activity one - answers



Lacewing

This is a
native
species

Activity one - answers



Image: Andy Morffew via Wikimedia commons

What is
this?

Is it native or
invasive?

Activity one - answers



Image: Andy Morffew via Wikimedia commons

Vervet
monkey

Is it native or
invasive?

Activity one - answers



Image: Andy Morffew via Wikimedia commons

Vervet monkey

This is an invasive species that hasn't been found in Montserrat yet but could arrive in future

Activity one - answers



Image: Dick Daniels via Wikimedia commons

What is
this?

Is it native or
invasive?

Activity one - answers



Image: Dick Daniels via Wikimedia commons

Parakeet

Is it native or
invasive?

Activity one - answers



Image: Dick Daniels via Wikimedia commons

Parakeet

This is an invasive species that hasn't been found in Montserrat yet but could arrive in future

Activity one - answers

Native



Invasive



Activity two: Detective challenge

There are four reports of invasive species causing problems in Montserrat.

Go through each case one by one and work out:

1. How the invasive species got to Montserrat.
2. What we could do to stop this happening again

Look at the clues if you need to and write your answers down on the worksheet.

Activity two: Detective challenge

Answers

Activity two - answers

Case 1

An invasive Cuban tree frog has been found in the wardrobe of someone's house.

How did the frog get from Cuba to a wardrobe in Montserrat?



Activity two - answers

Case 1

The owner of the house went on holiday and the frog crawled into their suitcase without them realising. When they got home it crawled out into their wardrobe.



Activity two - answers

Case 1

The owner of the house went on holiday and the frog crawled into their suitcase without them realising. When they got home it crawled out into their wardrobe.



How could we stop this from happening again?

Activity two - answers

Case 1

We could stop this from happening again by telling everyone to check their luggage for hitchhikers before coming to Montserrat.



Activity two - answers

Case 2

An invasive boa constrictor snake from South America has been rescued from a park.

How did the snake end up in a park in Montserrat?



Image: Tod Baker

Activity two - answers

Case 2

The snake was brought to Montserrat as a pet but dumped in the park when it became too large for the owner to look after.



Image: Tod Baker

How could we stop this from happening again?

Activity two - answers

Case 2

We could stop this from happening again by taking care of our pets and never releasing them into the wild where they could hurt other animals, or be hurt themselves.



Image: Tod Baker

Activity two - answers

Case 3

A farmer has found a giant African land snail in one of their fields.

How did the snail end up in a field in Montserrat?



Activity two - answers

Case 3

Some of the farm workers visited a farm in Antigua and stepped in mud with snail eggs in it. When they got back to Montserrat the eggs came off their boots and hatched into snails.



Image: Eric Guinther

How could we stop this from happening again?

Activity two - answers

Case 3

We could stop this from happening again by telling everyone to clean their footwear before coming to Montserrat.



Image: Eric Guinther

Activity two - answers

Case 4

Someone has found a tomato leaf miner caterpillar in their lunchbox.

How did this caterpillar end up in a lunchbox in Montserrat?



Image: Marja van der Straten/NVWA Plant Protection Service/Bugwood

Activity two - answers

Case 4

The caterpillar was in a tomato imported from abroad.



Image: Marja van der Straten/NVWA Plant Protection Service/Bugwood

How could we stop this from happening again?

Activity two - answers

Case 4

We could stop this from happening again by looking out for any pests in our fruit and vegetables.



Image: Marja van der Straten/NVWA Plant Protection Service/Bugwood

What have we learned today?

Invasive species are plants and animals that are from other parts of the world and been brought to Montserrat by people.

They can harm our wildlife and food crops by:

- Eating them.
- Eating their food or taking over the place that they live.
- Spreading diseases which harm them.

What have we learned today?

Some of the ways that invasive species can be spread are:

- As hitchhikers in luggage.
- As unwanted pets dumped in the wild.
- In mud or soil carried on footwear and car tyres.
- In food which is imported from abroad.

What have we learned today?

We can help protect our wildlife and crops by:

- Checking luggage for hitchhikers before coming to Montserrat.
- Looking after our pets.
- Cleaning footwear and car tyres before coming to Montserrat.
- Checking our food for pests.

Extension activity (optional)

Design a poster to tell others about invasive species and what they can do to stop them from spreading