Invasive Species Activity

Today we are going to learn about <u>invasive</u> <u>species</u>.

- 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 <u>native species</u>.



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 <u>native species</u> 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 <u>native</u> or <u>invasive species</u>.
- what they are.

<u>Native species</u> 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







What is this?

Is it native or invasive?







Montserrat oriole

Is this native or invasive?







<u>Montserrat</u> oriole

This is a native species







<u>What is</u> this?

Is it native or invasive?







<u>Cucumber</u> <u>beetle</u>

Is it native or invasive?







<u>Cucumber</u> <u>beetle</u>

This is an invasive species







<u>What is</u> this?

Is it native or invasive?







Mountain chicken

Is it native or invasive?







Mountain chicken

This is a native species







<u>What is</u> this?

Is it native or invasive?







Ladybird

Is it native or invasive?







Ladybird

This is a native species





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<u>What is</u> this?

Is it native or invasive?







Frangipani hawkmoth caterpillar

Is it native or invasive?







Frangipani hawkmoth caterpillar

This is an invasive species







<u>What is</u> this?

Is it native or invasive?







Lacewing

Is it native or invasive?







Lacewing

This is a native species





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<u>What is</u> this?

Is it native or invasive?

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<u>Vervet</u> monkey

Is it native or invasive?

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<u>Vervet</u> monkey

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







<u>What is</u> <u>this?</u>

Is it native or invasive?







Parakeet

Is it native or invasive?







Parakeet

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





IK Governmen

Native

Invasive





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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





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?







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.







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?





Case 1

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



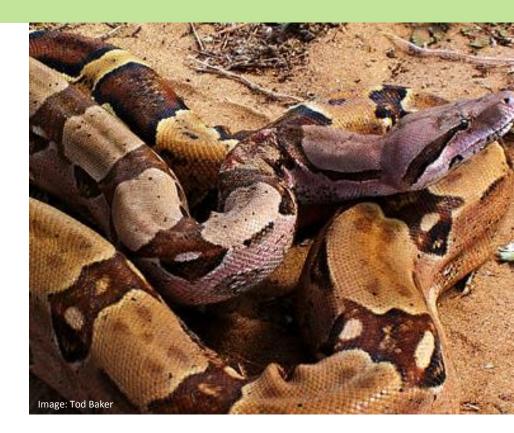




<u>Case 2</u>

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

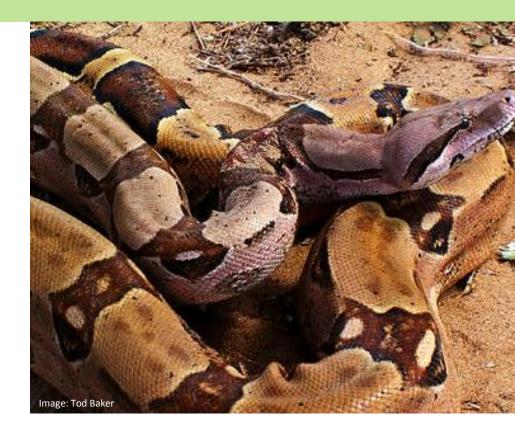
How did the snake end up in a park in Montserrat?





<u>Case 2</u>

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



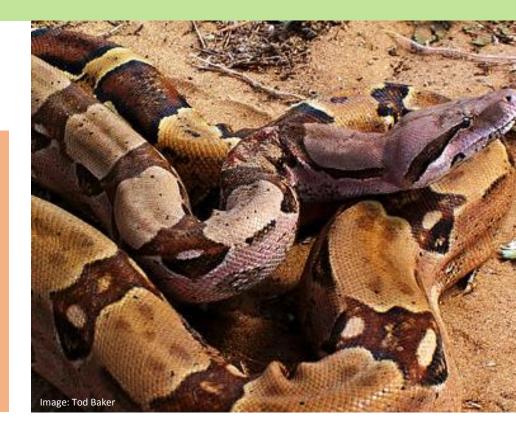
How could we stop this from happening again?





<u>Case 2</u>

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.







<u>Case 3</u>

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?







JK Government

<u>Case 3</u>

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.



How could we stop this from happening again?





Case 3

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







UK Government

Case 4

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

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







IK Government

Case 4

The caterpillar was in a tomato imported from abroad.



How could we stop this from happening again?





Case 4

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







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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



