



## Be a Habitat Hero: Find the Invasive Plants and Animals

B X F T D E O H L G U O I L T T A Y H  
 I R E F S R E D I L S D E R A E D E R  
 G I O W P R A E A L T P H S I M C L E  
 H D G W A T J T N O T H H N R G H L D  
 E A O I N O F T S O P I E A T M I O B  
 A N R R I H M G D U R L H K U L N W R  
 D O F A S T E I U A M P K E N T E S O  
 C R L L H W S A M M F K D H R C S T M  
 A T L F B A A N D U U T C E B U E A E  
 R H U H R T O T N E V T E A E P M R M  
 P E B E O E S R A G D O E D L O I T T  
 T R N O O R T E L I F C T S C B T H E  
 E N A I M S P E A H E S O M W N T I W  
 O P C S R N N D E P S D Y W L A E S N  
 R I I N O A R A Z E T D L I B T N T T  
 R K R G T K V H W P N O A G T I C L A  
 D E E W R E P P E P L A I N N E R E P  
 C E M L N S P G N E E H I R N I A D E  
 B S A H S U H O R O A H H A N D B T O

American bullfrog  
 Bighead carp  
 Black mustard  
 Brown headed cowbird  
 Chinese mitten crab  
 Gars  
 Giant reed

Mute swan  
 New Zealand mudsnail  
 Northern pike  
 Nutria  
 Perennial pepperweed  
 Red brome  
 Red eared slider



Snakeheads  
 Spanish broom  
 Tree of Heaven  
 Watersnakes  
 Yellow starthistle












Learn more about all of these invasive species - pages 2-3



Puzzle solution - page 4

| Image   | Species   | Description  |
|---|---|--|
|    | <p><b>American bullfrog</b></p> <p>Photo Credit:<br/>CDFW</p>   | <p>Large frog that can grow to more than eight inches in length and weigh over two pounds. Widespread in California. Prefers warm, slow or stagnant waters with abundant vegetation. Huge appetites and will eat anything it can fit into their mouths.</p>  |
|    | <p><b>Bighead carp</b></p> <p>Photo Credit:<br/>South Dakota<br/>Department of<br/>Game, Fish and<br/>Parks</p> | <p>Not currently in California. Fish can reach four feet in length and weigh up to 88 pounds. Prefers warmer water, but could survive throughout the state. Carries many diseases and outcompetes natives for vast quantities of plankton.</p>   |
|    | <p><b>Black mustard</b></p> <p>Photo Credit:<br/>©2011 Zoya<br/>Akulova</p>                                     | <p>Upright plant about three feet tall with yellow flowers whose petals form a cross. Widespread in California. Plant produces chemicals that prevent the germination of native plants. Dries out during the summer which may cause an increase in wildfire intensity.</p>                         |
|    | <p><b>Brown headed cowbird</b></p> <p>Photo Credit:<br/>CDFW</p>  | <p>A member of the blackbird family. Six to eight inches in length. Found throughout California. Removes eggs from other bird's nest and replaces them with their own. The host bird raises the chicks as their own and produce fewer of their own.</p>  |
|   | <p><b>Chinese mitten crab</b></p> <p>Photo Credit:<br/>CDFW</p>   | <p>Medium sized crab with round carapace (top shell). Found in San Francisco Bay Delta watershed. Need saltwater and freshwater environments to complete their lifecycle. Burrowing causes damage to dikes, levees, streambanks.</p>   |
|  | <p><b>Gars</b></p> <p>Photo Credit:<br/>CDFW</p>  | <p>Occasionally found in California, probably as the result of aquarium releases. Top predator in warm, shallow well vegetated freshwater habitats. Will ambush fish, crabs, waterfowl, and small mammals.</p>   |
|  | <p><b>Giant reed</b></p> <p>Photo Credit:<br/>© 2007 Dr. Amadej<br/>Trnkoczy</p>                                | <p>A tall grass that forms dense stands in disturbed areas, dunes, riparian areas and wetlands. Common along coast of southern California and throughout the bay area and central valley. Outcompetes native plants like willows for space and water.</p>  |
|  | <p><b>Mute swan</b></p> <p>Photo Credit:<br/>Cathie Vouchilas</p>   | <p>Large birds measuring up to five and one-half feet in length and a wingspan of up to eight feet. Known present in Sacramento, Solano, Sonoma and Marin counties. They consume large amounts of underwater aquatic vegetation and can be very aggressive towards other waterfowl and people.</p> |
|  | <p><b>New Zealand mudsnail</b></p> <p>Photo Credit:<br/>U.S. Geological<br/>Survey</p>                          | <p>Snails reproduce asexually, therefore just one snail can result in an infestation. They have been found in many lakes and river systems throughout California. Dense populations of snails crowd out other invertebrates, and their low nutritional value can lead to poor body condition.</p>  |

| Image   | Species   | Description   |
|---|---|---|
|    | <p><b>Nutria</b></p> <p>Photo Credit:<br/>CDFW</p>                                  | <p>Large, light to dark brown aquatic rodent. They can reach a body length of two feet and can produce up to three litters per year with 2-13 young per litter. Present mostly in or near the San Joaquin Valley. They damage levees and banks and consume up to 25% of their body weight in vegetation and waste and destroy up to 10 times as much.</p> |
|    | <p><b>Perennial pepperweed</b></p> <p>Photo Credit:<br/>© 2012 Aaron Arthur</p>     | <p>Upright plant reaching heights of six feet with small dense clusters of white flowers. Reproduces by seeds and root fragments. Can grow in most environments and can quickly form dense stands that crowd out other plants and animals.</p>  |
|    | <p><b>Red brome</b></p> <p>Photo Credit:<br/>© 2008 Thomas Stoughton</p>            | <p>Found throughout California. Usually grows from eight to twenty-eight inches tall. Spikelets vary in color from green to a purplish-red. Can alter soil composition, outcompete native plants for water, and is highly flammable.</p>  |
|   | <p><b>Red eared slider</b></p> <p>Photo Credit:<br/>CDFW</p>                        | <p>Medium sized freshwater turtles with thick red stripe behind the eyes. Can live up to 20 years in the wild. Found throughout California. Vectors for many diseases and competes for habitat with native turtles. Each female can lay up to six clutches of eggs per year, each containing up to 30 eggs.</p>   |
|  | <p><b>Snakeheads</b></p> <p>Photo Credit:<br/>Buck Albert, USGS</p>                 | <p>Freshwater fish with a torpedo shaped body. Can survive out of water for up to four days if kept moist. Currently not established in California. They are very aggressive predators that eat fish, and a wide variety of animals including young birds and mammals.</p>  |
|  | <p><b>Spanish broom</b></p> <p>Photo Credit:<br/>© 2008 Neal Kramer</p>             | <p>This shrub/tree can grow up to 15 feet tall. It has yellow pea-like flowers and likes to grow in disturbed areas. It forms dense clusters not allowing native plants to grow in the same area. It is not a good food source for most animals.</p>  |
|  | <p><b>Tree of heaven</b></p> <p>Photo Credit:<br/>© 2020 Jean Pawek</p>             | <p>Tree reaching up to 80 feet tall that forms dense thickets that can invade the surrounding area. Can thrive in most environments and produces chemicals that inhibit growth of native plants.</p>  |
|  | <p><b>Watersnakes</b></p> <p>Photo Credit:<br/>Todd Pierson</p>                     | <p>Thick bodied snakes of various colors. Not venomous but may strike several times and give off a foul-smelling musk mixed with feces. Found in Sacramento, Yolo, Placer and Los Angeles counties. Most are pet releases. They threaten native garter snakes and other sensitive species.</p>  |
|  | <p><b>Yellow starthistle</b></p> <p>Photo Credit:<br/>© 2003 George W. Hartwell</p> | <p>This yellow flowered plant with numerous spines is highly competitive in the landscape, often developing impenetrable stands that displace desirable vegetation. Frequently found in disturbed soils. Occurs from the Central Valley northward. One plant can produce 75,000 seeds.</p>  |

Puzzle Solution

