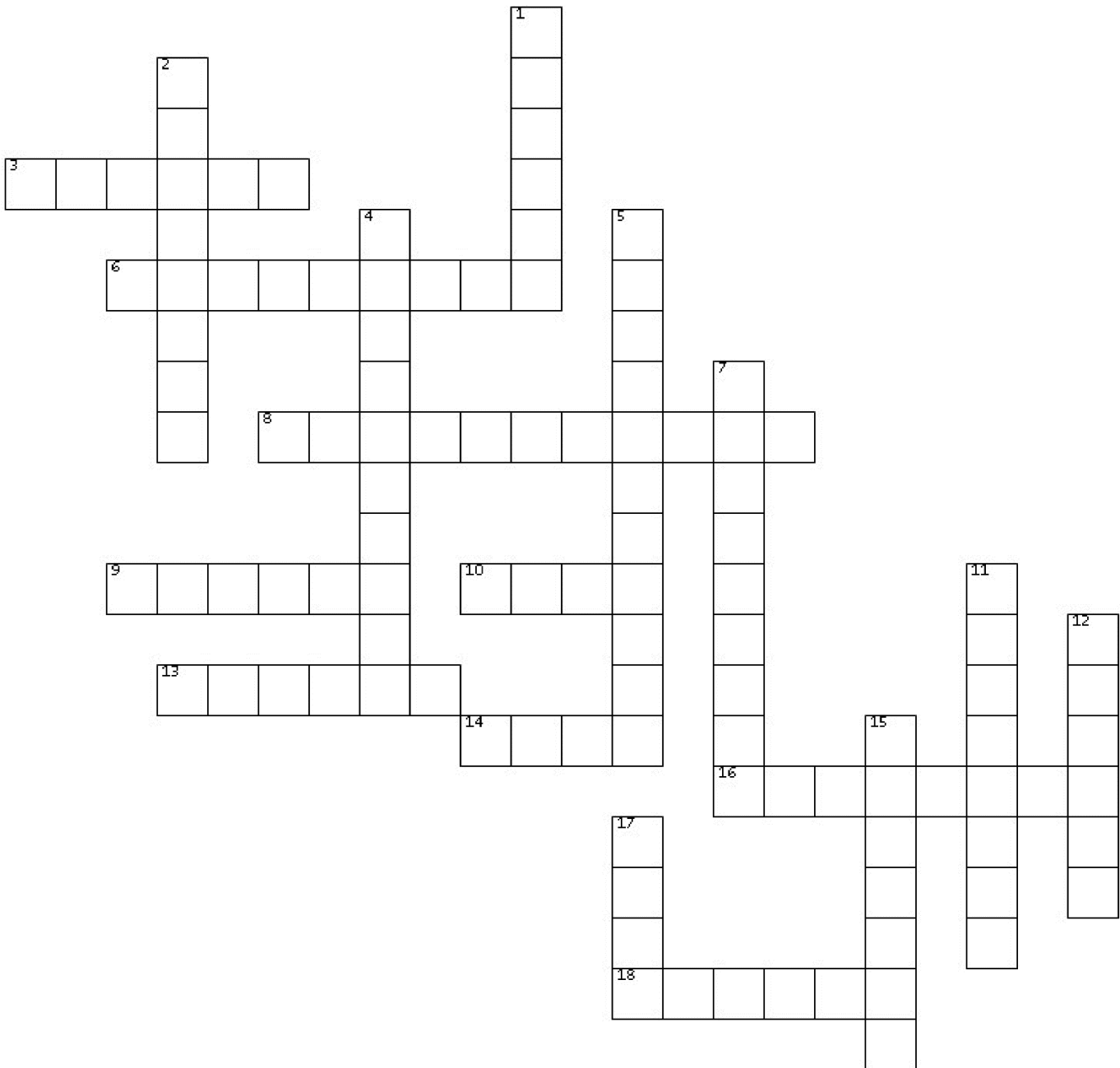




Unite to Fight Invasive Species



Use the clues below to fill in the words in the puzzle. Words can go across or down.

ACROSS

- 3. Be sure to _____ any invasive species you come across.
- 6. Red brome is a type of grass that is highly _____, increasing the danger of wildfires.
- 8. The invasive black mustard plant produces chemicals that prevent the _____ of native plants.
- 9. The rat-like _____ damage levees and waste/destroy a lot of vegetation.
- 10. A few _____ have been found in California, probably the result of aquarium releases.
- 13. The red eared _____ turtle can be a vector for many diseases.
- 14. A _____ swan can be very aggressive towards other birds and humans.
- 16. Stop the spread of invasive plants by _____ burrs and plant fragments from your shoes/boots and pets.
- 18. This fish is named after a color and can leap out of the water.

DOWN

- 1. Replace invasive plants with _____ plants in your yard.
- 2. _____ is a great community activity to get outdoors and collect information for science and conservation.
- 4. This aquatic reptile is a threat to our native Garter snakes.
- 5. Almost 75,000 seeds can be produced by one yellow _____ plant.
- 7. _____ with a local organization to remove invasive weeds from a favorite park.
- 11. Water _____ creates thick mats of vegetation that impede water activities and harm native animals living below it.
- 12. _____ mussels don't get bigger than a fingernail, but they do big damage to the food web and boats.
- 15. These brown headed birds replace eggs from other bird's nests with their own.
- 17. Educate others on the dangers of releasing unwanted _____ into the wild.

PUZZLE SOLUTION ON PAGE 5

Species Information












Image	Species	Description
	<p>Black mustard</p> <p>Photo Credit: ©2011 Zoya Akulova</p>	<p>Upright plant about 3 ft. 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>Brown headed cowbird</p> <p>Photo Credit: CDFW</p>	<p>Part of the blackbird family. 6 to 8 in. in length. Found throughout California. Removes eggs from other bird's nest and replaces with their own eggs, have host bird raise the chicks as their own.</p>
	<p>Coqui frog</p> <p>Photo Credit: Chris Brown US Geological Survey</p>	<p>Small tree frogs that average 1-2 in. in length. Call of the male is a loud, whistling "ko-KEE" sound. The young hatch as developed frogs, they do not undergo a tadpole stage. They lay their eggs on terrestrial plant leaves, not in the water. Likely introduced into the U.S. via tropical plant shipments. They can reach densities of over 22,500 frogs per acre which means they can out-compete birds and their insect eating animals for food.</p>
	<p>Giant reed</p> <p>Photo Credit: © 2007 Dr. Amadej 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 water.</p>
	<p>Silver carp</p> <p>Photo Credit: Indiana Department of Natural Resources</p>	<p>Deep bodied, laterally compressed freshwater fish. Preferred habitats include large rivers, warm water ponds, lakes and backwaters that receive flooding or are connected to large rivers. Compete with native fish for food and are carriers of many diseases.</p>
	<p>Mute swan</p> <p>Photo Credit: Cathie Vouchilas</p>	<p>Large birds measuring 4 to 5.5 ft. in length and with a wingspan of up to nearly 8 ft. They consume very large amounts of underwater aquatic vegetation and can be very aggressive to other birds and towards people.</p>
	<p>Nutria</p> <p>Photo Credit: CDFW</p>	<p>Large, light to dark brown aquatic rodent. They can reach a body length of 2 ft. 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>

Image	Species	Description
	<p>Quagga mussel</p> <p>Photo Credit: Amy Benson US Geological Survey</p>	<p>They can colonize both hard and soft surfaces in freshwater from the surface to more than 400ft. in depth. They grow to sizes no larger than a fingernail. They can spawn multiple times a year and can produce millions of offspring per spawning season. Adults can survive out of water for a week or longer depending on temperature and humidity. They can clog boat motors and water conveyance equipment as well as altering the food web by filtering water and removing plankton.</p>
	<p>Red brome</p> <p>Photo Credit: © 2008 Thomas Stoughton</p>	<p>Found throughout California. Usually grows from 8 to 28 in. 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>Red eared slider</p> <p>Photo Credit: Anna Ewing 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. Each female can lay up to six clutches a year, each containing up to 30 eggs.</p>
	<p>Water hyacinth</p> <p>Photo Credit: © 2015 Barry Breckling</p>	<p>Freshwater habitat. Plants can grow to 3 feet in height. Forms large impenetrable mats in waterways, making most water activities impossible. Crowds out native plants and due to low oxygen levels in the water below the plants, most animals including fish cannot survive.</p>
	<p>Watersnake</p> <p>Photo Credit: 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 represent a threat to our native Giant Garter Snake.</p>
	<p>Yellow starthistle</p> <p>Photo Credit: © 2003 George W. Hartwell</p>	<p>This yellow flowered plant with numerous spines is highly competitive in the landscape, often developing impenetrable stands causing displacement of desirable vegetation. Grows in most areas that have undergone some sort of disturbance. One plant can produce almost 75,000 seeds.</p>

Puzzle Solution

