



Name _____ Date _____

MOST UNWANTED! POSTER PROJECT

In this project, you will research and design a **Most Unwanted!** poster for an aquatic invasive species that poses an ecological threat to your area. The poster should address both the basic biology of the species and the impact it has on other organisms in its invaded habitat.

1 Your poster should include a combination of some of the following elements:

____ *Name of the invasive species (both common and scientific names)*

____ *Pictures (color drawings or photos) and written description of the species*

____ *Where it is originally from and the area(s) it has invaded*

____ *What is its "crime"? Who are its victims? How does it impact native species, and what effect does it have on the local ecosystem?*

____ *Prevention and management: How can we stop it from invading, and how can we get rid of it once it appears? Whom do we contact if we spot an invader in our area?*

____ *Citations for websites and other resources consulted for your research*

2 Format: Posters should be at least 11" x 17", and can be constructed by hand or digitally. All text must be typed, for readability, and illustrations can be created by hand or digitally; photos and maps may also be used.

Considering the format of your project, it is important to prioritize information based on

- the **message** you want to communicate (for example, emphasizing the danger to a local environment and other organisms or impacting the economic well-being of a community, such as people who are dependent on tourism or fishing for their livelihood), and
- the **space** you have available to convey your message (for example, a poster will have limited space and will require high visual impact information, whereas a magazine article or video presentation would allow greater detail).

3 Process: To try out possible layouts for your poster, draw quick **thumbnail sketches** ("doodles") of your final product. Thumbnails are quickly sketched drawings showing basic placement of graphic elements (type, illustrations, photographs, charts, graphs, etc.). Keep in mind all the elements you will be incorporating, and use the thumbnail sketching process to (a) rough out your design, and (b) ensure that all elements you plan to use are incorporated.

4 Feedback: Request preliminary feedback for your ideas from your peers (other students) and/or your "boss" (in this case, your instructor). Ask questions such as, "Does my proposed idea communicate the important information about my species?" and "Is there anything I could add (or subtract) to make the message more clear?" Use this opportunity to refine your visual message and to make sure you have included all the required elements.

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- 5 Refine your concept** in more detailed sketches, incorporating useful feedback that you have received. Revise the text for your poster, and make sure it will fit in the space you have available and still convey a strong message (for example, don't make the text on a poster too small—people need to be able to read it from a distance, and you don't want a lot of dense text to crowd out your visual message).
- 6 Finalize** the design of your poster. In this step you will use the tools and materials available to put together a final version of your project. With your instructor, make sure you have the computer resources available (for text or graphics or both), and if you need other supplies, make sure those are available as well.

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PROJECT EVALUATION

Follow instructions given by your instructor for how to evaluate yourself and your peers. As your peers present their posters, answer the following questions for each presentation. *Use one set of questions for each presentation.*

Poster designer's name _____

What is the name of the organism? _____

Have you seen it before? Where? _____

What other species are related to the organism? _____

Did you know it was invasive? Why or why not? _____

What are three interesting facts you learned about this species?

How can you help prevent the spread of or eradicate this species? _____

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BUILD YOUR VOCABULARY

Instructions: Define the following vocabulary words and write a sentence using each word.

1 Characteristic

Definition: _____

Use in a sentence: _____

2 Common name

Definition: _____

Use in a sentence: _____

3 Ecosystem

Definition: _____

Use in a sentence: _____

4 Habitat

Definition: _____

Use in a sentence: _____

5 Invasive species

Definition: _____

Use in a sentence: _____

6 Kingdom

Definition: _____

Use in a sentence: _____

7 Life cycle

Definition: _____

Use in a sentence: _____

8 Native species

Definition: _____

Use in a sentence: _____

9 Niche

Definition: _____

Use in a sentence: _____

10 Nonnative species

Definition: _____

Use in a sentence: _____

11 Range

Definition: _____

Use in a sentence: _____

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12 Research process

Definition: _____

Use in a sentence: _____

13 Scientific name

Definition: _____

Use in a sentence: _____

14 Specialization

Definition: _____

Use in a sentence: _____

15 Thumbnail sketch

Definition: _____

Use in a sentence: _____

16 Vector

Definition: _____

Use in a sentence: _____