



# Texas Connection

## Activity #12

### Invasive Species

Teaching students how to think, not what to think, about the environment.

Texas is a big state and invasive species can be found almost everywhere. With the different ecosystems across the state, a variety of invaders have had a chance to move in and prosper — and it has caused big problems in many areas.

You can find out how to detect these invasive species by becoming a citizen scientist or a voyager. All it requires is training provided by the Texas Invasive Plant and Pest Council (the first website in Links below). The council offers workshops and online training, so you can learn about the invasive species in your area. Once you're trained, you can observe and report what you see.

During the 20th Century, invasive species cost Texans almost \$100 billion dollars. But there are some tips to help you fight against invasive species. Do your research before landscaping, be a smart consumer, and get involved. Just those simple steps can help prevent extinctions, protect fragile ecosystems and give native Texas plants and animals a better chance to survive and prosper.

At the Texas Invasives website, students can review invasive species by group in the database or by region under Invasives 101.

#### Links

Texas Invasives

[www.texasinvasives.org/](http://www.texasinvasives.org/)

USDA

[www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/unitedstates/tx.shtml](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/unitedstates/tx.shtml)