



Teacher Resource

# Cane Toads

## Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. Where are cane toads originally from?
2. Why were they brought to Australia?
3. What makes the cane toad an invasive species?
4. What impact have they had on the environment and native species?
5. What methods have been used to control cane toads?

## Activity: True or false?

Students begin the Cane Toads activity with a quick true or false quiz. Circle the correct answer.

1. Cane toads are native to Australia.	<b>True</b> <b>False</b>
2. Cane toads were originally introduced to control sugarcane pests.	<b>True</b> <b>False</b>
3. Cane toads were very helpful to sugarcane farmers.	<b>True</b> <b>False</b>
4. Female cane toads can lay up to 30,000 eggs at a time.	<b>True</b> <b>False</b>
5. Efforts to control cane toad populations have been completely successful.	<b>True</b> <b>False</b>

Answers: 1. False, 2. True, 3. False, 4. True, 5. False

## Activity: Discuss

Students will respond to one or more of the following questions after watching the BTN Cane Toads story:

- What did you learn from the BTN story?
- What SURPRISED you about what you saw in the story?
- Think of three questions you have about the story.
- What more do you want to learn about cane toads and invasive species?



### EPISODE 17

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### KEY LEARNING

Students will learn more about cane toads and their impact on native species.

### CURRICULUM

#### Science – Years 5 & 6

Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions.

#### Science – Year 6

The growth and survival of living things are affected by physical conditions of their environment.

#### Science – Year 7

Interactions between organisms, including the effects of human activities can be represented by food chains and food webs.

Scientific knowledge has changed peoples' understanding of the world and is refined as new evidence becomes available.

## Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Cane Toads story. Here are some words to get them started.

INTRODUCED SPECIES	INVASIVE	ECOSYSTEM
PREDATORS	TOXIC	NATIVE SPECIES

Ask students to write what they think is the meaning of each word (including unfamiliar words). They will swap definitions with a partner and ask them to add to or change the definition. Check these against the dictionary definition.

## Activity: Invasive Species Research

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Cane Toads story. What questions were raised in the discussion and what are the gaps in students' knowledge? The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic.

What do I <b><u>k</u></b> now?	What do I <b><u>w</u></b> ant to know?	What have I <b><u>l</u></b> earnt?	<b><u>H</u></b> ow will I find out?

Students will develop their own question/s to research or choose one or more of the questions below. Encourage students to collect and record information from a wide variety of sources and present the information they find in an interesting way.

- What impact have cane toads had on native Australian species?
- What are some ways scientists or communities try to control cane toad populations?
- How can you tell the difference between a cane toad and a native frog? Create a labelled diagram to show the differences.
- Investigate a species (plant or animal) that have been introduced into Australia and have become invasive. Are there invasive species near where you live?
- How do we try to stop the spread of diseases and pest species in Australia?
- Investigate ways of controlling and eradicating invasive species.
- What is biosecurity and how does it help to keep Australian ecosystems healthy?
- Choose an invasive species and find out how it competes with native species.
- Investigate examples of native species becoming extinct because of invasive species.

## Activity: Invasive Species Profile

Students will investigate the impact invasive species have on the environment and choose one to research in more detail. They may choose an invasive species that is found near them. Use the following questions as a guide for their research.

### Research

- Name of invasive species.
- Which country did the species come from?
- When and how was the species introduced to Australia?
- Where in Australia is the species found? Locate on a map.
- What impact does the species have on the ecosystem? Does it compete with native species?
- What methods have been used to control or eradicate the species?
- How successful has control or eradication been?

Design a public education campaign to raise awareness about an invasive species in Australia. Think about your campaign's aim, your target audience, and the value of raising awareness.

Create a poster of Australia's 10 most unwanted invasive species. Describe each species and the impact the species has on the environment.

Watch these BTN stories to learn more about introduced and invasive species.



[Rabbit Scan](#)



[Fire Ants](#)



[Bumblebee Tracking](#)



[Toad Training](#)



[Controlling Carp](#)



[Mouse Plague](#)



[Feral Species Cost](#)



[Calligrapha Beetle Business](#)



[Garden Weeds](#)

## Activity: Citizen Science

A great way to monitor your local native frogs, and detect any calling cane toads, is to get involved in the FrogID citizen science project. [Download the free FrogID app](#) and record the calls coming from your pond, dam or local creek.



## Useful Websites

- [Cane Toad](#) – Australian Museum
- [Introduction of cane toads](#) – National Museum Australia
- [Darwin teams milk cane toad toxin for trap bait to protect native wildlife](#) – ABC News