



Teacher Resource

# Yellow Crazy Ants

## 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. About how many ants are there on earth?
  - a. 20 million
  - b. 20 billion
  - c. 20 quadrillion
2. Why do ants play an important role in the environment?
3. What impact can invasive ants have on ecosystems?
4. What is being done to control or eradicate invasive ants?
5. Name three facts you learnt watching the BTN story.

## Activity: Note taking

Students will practise their note-taking skills while watching the BTN Yellow Crazy Ants story. After watching the story, ask students to reflect on and organise the information into three categories. What information in the story was...?

- Positive
- Negative or
- Interesting



## Activity: Mind Map

Discuss the BTN Yellow Crazy Ants story as a class. What do students know about invasive species? What questions do they have? Create a class mind map with **INVASIVE SPECIES** in the middle. Use the following questions to help guide discussion:

- What is an invasive species? Come up with a class definition.
- What are some examples of invasive species (plants and animals)?
- What impact do they have on native species and ecosystems?
- What questions do you have about invasive species?



### EPISODE 34

28<sup>TH</sup> November 2023

#### KEY LEARNING

Students will investigate the impact that invasive species have on the environment and ways of controlling or eradicating them.

#### 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 develop a glossary of words about invasive species. Below are some words to get you started. Add words and meanings to your glossary as you come across unfamiliar words.

INVASIVE	SPECIES	INTRODUCED
NATIVE	ERADICATE	ECOSYSTEM

## Activity: Invasive Species Research

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Yellow Crazy Ants story. What questions were raised in the discussion and what are the gaps in students' knowledge? Students will develop their own question/s to research or choose one or more of the questions below.

- Are all introduced species a bad thing? What makes an animal a 'pest'?
- Investigate a species (plant or animal) that have been introduced into Australia and have become invasive.
- Research an introduced species that has had a positive effect on the environment.
- Investigate invasive species (plants and/or animals) that are found near where you live.
- What are the different pest threats (plant or animal) to farming and agriculture?
- Investigate ways of controlling and eradicating invasive species.
- How has the video game *Age of Empires* helped researchers understand ant warfare?
- What is biosecurity? How does biosecurity help to keep Australian ecosystems healthy?
- Investigate examples of native species becoming extinct because of invasive species.

## Activity: Native or Introduced?

Students identify which animals are native to Australia and which are introduced (*answers at the end of the activity*)

Animal	Native or introduced?
<i>Monarch butterfly</i>	
<i>Fire Ant</i>	
<i>Quokka</i>	
<i>Wallaby</i>	
<i>Cane toad</i>	
<i>Platypus</i>	
<i>Bumblebee</i>	

## Activity: Profile Invasive Species

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](#)

### Native or Introduced? answers

Monarch butterfly – introduced, Fire Ant – introduced, Quokka – native, Wallaby – native, Cane toad – introduced, Platypus – native, Bumblebee - introduced

## Useful Websites

- [Yellow crazy ants are taking over Townsville properties sparking its largest-ever baiting blitz](#) – ABC News
- [Yellow Crazy Ants](#) – Invasive Species Council
- [Fire Ants](#) – BTN
- [Feral Species Cost](#) – BTN