



Teacher Resource

Feral Species Cost

Focus Questions

1. Before you watch the BTN story, make a list of the feral species you know.
2. What is a feral species?
3. About how much have invasive species cost Australia over the past 60 years?
 - a. 39 million
 - b. 39 billion
 - c. 390 billion
4. Give an example of the damage an invasive species can cause to agriculture.
5. Why are feral species particularly bad for Australia?
6. Which feral animal is the most costly and dangerous in Australia?
7. What other feral animals are a problem?
8. How do biosecurity laws help to keep pests out of Australia?
9. What impact can feral species have on native species?
10. What questions do you have about the story?

Activity: Class Discussion

Before watching the BTN Feral Species Cost story, ask students what they already know about invasive species. How many invasive plants and animals can they name? Make a list.

Hold a class discussion about the information in the BTN Feral Species Cost story. Use the following questions to 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 invasive species have native species and ecosystems?
- What is the economic impact of invasive species?
- What questions do you have about invasive species?



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KEY LEARNING

Students will investigate the impact that invasive species have on the environment and economy.

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.

Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Feral Species Cost story. Below are some words to get them started.

INTRODUCED SPECIES	PEST	INVASIVE
POPULATION CONTROL	ERADICATE	ECOSYSTEM

Activity: Invasive Species Research

After watching and discussing the BTN Feral Species Cost story, what questions do students have? The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic and consider what they would like to know and learn.

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

Students will develop their own question/s to research or select one or more of the questions below.

- 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? Watch the BTN [Mouse Plague story](#) to learn more.
- How do we try to stop the spread of diseases and pest species (animals and plants) in Australia? (For example: not being allowed to take some food items across state borders, having bags checked at the airport, vaccinations for animals).
- Investigate ways of controlling invasive species.
- What is biosecurity? How does biosecurity 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.

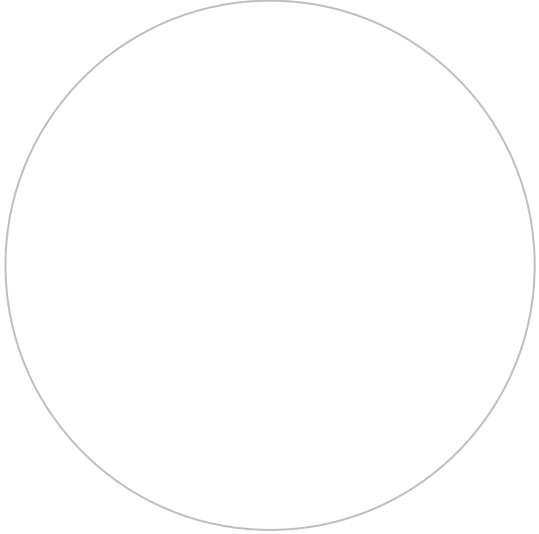
Watch the BTN [Calligrapha Beetle Business story](#) to find out how some kids are helping to combat a serious environmental problem, while making a profit.

1. How much do Jack and Kelly sell the beetles for?
2. The beetles are native to which country?
3. Why were the beetles introduced?
4. Who is the Sida weed a big problem for?
5. Sida weed is a problem, particularly in the dry season. True or false?
6. Why is the Calligrapha beetle the perfect biological control?
7. How many beetles have they sold so far?
8. Explain the process of collecting the beetles.



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 template as a guide for their research.

<p>Name of invasive species:</p> <p>Which country did the species come from?</p> <p>When and how was the species introduced to Australia?</p> <p>Where in Australia is the species found?</p>	 <p>Illustration/photo</p>
<p>What impact does the species have on the ecosystem?</p>	
<p>Methods used to control or eradicate the species:</p>	
<p>How successful has control or eradication been?</p>	

Further investigation

- 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.

Activity: Match the Invasive Species

Working in pairs, students match the invasive species to the clues provided.

Fire Ant



Feral pigs



Ragwort



Feral Cat



Lantana



A

I arrived in Australia with the First Fleet.
There are more 23 million of me across Australia.
I cause significant agricultural damage.

B

I am native to Europe.
I am poisonous to grazing animals and invade native vegetation.

C

I am spread mainly by fruit-eating birds and mammals.
More than 1400 native species are negatively affected by me including many endangered and threatened species.

D

I am native to South America.
I am the target of one of the biggest eradication programs in Australia.

E

I am responsible for killing around 1 billion native animals every year.
I have contributed to the extinction of more than 20 Australian mammals.

Answers: Fire Ant: D, Feral pig: A, Ragwort: B, Feral cat: E, Lantana: C.

Useful Websites

- [Invasive species have cost Australia \\$390 billion in the past 60 years, study shows](#) – ABC News
- [Mouse Plague](#) - BTN
- [Calligrapha Beetle Business](#) - BTN
- [Fire Ants](#) – BTN
- [Controlling Carp](#) – BTN