Invasive Species Assignment

Today you will be working on an Invasive Species assignment. Invasive species are organisms that are not native to an ecosystem and pose a danger to the environment they now inhabit. You will need to choose a species from the list below, or pick your own, and research the following information. Once you have answered the following questions, create a mini poster in which you include the information listed below, as well as a drawing of your creature. This assignment is due by Wednesday 2nd at 11:59pm. This is worth 15 points.

Information you need to include on your poster.

1. Species Common Name: Burmese Python

2. Species Scientific Name: Python bivittatus

3. Native Geographical Location/Habitat: jungles and grassy marshes of Southeast Asia

4. Invaded Geographical Location/Habitat: Starting in the 1980s, the swamps of the South Florida Everglades

5. Date of Introduction: 1970

6. How was this species introduced? Was the introduction intentional or accidental? Explain. “The Burmese python most likely first arrived in Florida as part of the exotic pet trade”.

7. Identification: Briefly describe key features of your organism. The description should have enough detail so that any person can easily identify this species if seen. Large, heavy body is yellowish tan to light brown. Back and sides are marked with darker reddish brown blotches bordered with black; blotches on the back usually do not touch. Head is marked with a dark brown "V" shaped blotch with a tan line down the center.

8. Life Cycle: Describe or include a picture of the species lifecycle. “Burmese pythons breed early in the spring months. The females lay 12 to 48 eggs in the spring. After they lay the eggs, they gather them all together and coil around them to incubate. They will lay coiled around the eggs until they hatch.” And they live for 20 years.

9. Impact on the Ecosystem? Burmese pythons are having a significant impact on the ecosystem and biodiversity in the Everglades and surrounding areas. As an invasive species, the python has no natural predator in Florida, making it an apex predator in the area. Therefore, the population of these snakes is not being naturally controlled.

10. Methods of Control: How can we get rid of the current population? “Early-detection, rapid-response is the best way to stop them from spreading,” Millett said. “Even if the idea of getting your hands on a python gives you the heebie-jeebies, you can be part of the solution by learning how to spot them, calling it in, and helping us remove them.”

Invasive Species List

| Africanized Bee  | Argentine Ant  |
| --- | --- |
|   | Asian Longhorn Beetle  |
| Asian Tiger Mosquito | Brown Anole  |
| Brown Marmorated Stink Bug | Brown Tree Snake |
| Burmese Python | Cane Toads |
| Cuban Tree Frog | Eastern Grey Squirrels |
| Emerald Ash Borer | European Hedgehog |
| European Rabbit | European Red Fox |
| European Starlings | Feral Hogs |
| German Yellow Jacks | Giant African Snail |
| Japanese Beetle | Kudzu |
| Lionfish | Mallard Duck |
| Mongoose | Norway Rat |
| Nutria | Red Imported Fire Ant |
| Ship Rat | Snakehead Fish |
| Spiney Waterflea | Tegu |
| Tumbleweed | Zebra Mussel |