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: **Their common name is Lionfish**

2. Species Scientific Name: **Lion fishes scientific name is Pterois**

3. Native Geographical Location/Habitat: **Lion fishes Native Geographical Location is Coral reefs in tropical waters of South Pacific and Indian Oceans**

4. Invaded Geographical Location/Habitat: **Lion Fishes Invaded Geographical Location is Gulf of Mexico and the northern coast of South America**

5. Date of Introduction: **Lionfish were introduced in 1985**

6. How was this species introduced? Was the introduction intentional or accidental? Explain.

 **Biologists believe that lionfish were introduced when aquarium owners emptied unwanted pet lionfish into nearby coastal waters. The release was accidental**

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.

**Key features are** **distinctive brown or maroon, and white stripes or bands covering the head and body**.

8. Life Cycle: Describe or include a picture of the species lifecycle.

**Lionfish can live 10 to 15 years in the wild. They reach adult size when they're about two years old.**

9. Impact on the Ecosystem? **Lionfish impact on the ecosystem by putting additional stress on coral reefs.**

10. Methods of Control: How can we get rid of the current population? **To get the population of lionfish down you can hunt them, train sharks to eat them and to stop importing 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 |