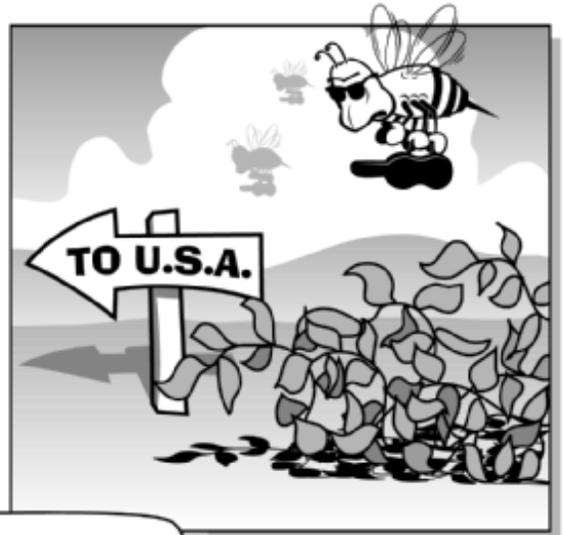


# ARE YOU A NATIVE OR AN ALIEN? Worksheet

Do you think that the plants that live in your Neighborhood have always lived there? Just like some people have moved to your neighborhood from far away places like France, Japan, or Mexico – so have some plants.

Scientists call plants and animals INTRODUCED SPECIES that developed in one place and have moved to another. This is because people have introduced them to their new habitat.

NATIVE SPECIES are those that developed in a particular place and have lived there for a very long time.



Do you know how many plants are not native? On each list below, check the plants that you think are native to the United States. Remember, a native plant is one that has been here for a very long time – since before the Native Americans and Europeans first arrived.

## List 1

\_\_\_ peanuts

\_\_\_ pecans

\_\_\_ corn

\_\_\_ wheat

\_\_\_ oak trees

## List 2

\_\_\_ daffodils

\_\_\_ tulips

\_\_\_ azaleas

\_\_\_ magnolias

\_\_\_ sunflowers

## List 3

\_\_\_ oranges

\_\_\_ blueberries

\_\_\_ raspberries

\_\_\_ peaches

\_\_\_ grapes

## List 4

\_\_\_ pumpkins

\_\_\_ squashes

\_\_\_ potatoes

\_\_\_ beans

\_\_\_ tomatoes

Everyday we use plants from around the world for our enjoyment and survival. Life would be rather boring if we didn't have foreign plants!

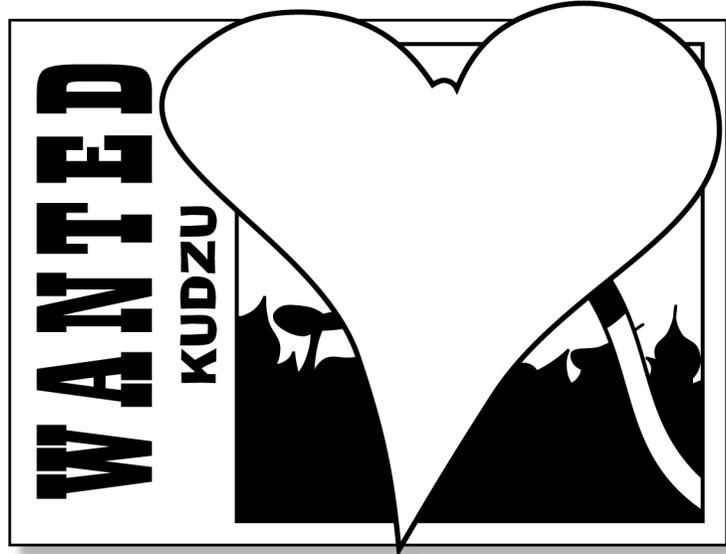
# DANGEROUS BEINGS ON THE LOOSE! Worksheet

Plant as well as animal invaders can be very dangerous. Below are 'Wanted Posters' for some of these. *Draw a scary monster face in the blank plant leaves.*

**GYPSY MOTH** The gypsy moth was introduced to Massachusetts in 1869 by a French scientist who was experimenting with silkworms. This deadly invader escaped the experiment station. It still haunts the forests of the Eastern United States. One female can lay about 400 eggs which she deposits on tree trunks, buildings, or other sheltered places. The hungry caterpillar babies can turn leaves into skeletons and pick tree branches clean! Gypsy moths have eaten their way through millions of acres of forest and shade trees.



**KUDZU** In its native country, Japan, this vine grows peacefully along with other native Japanese plants. It is even considered a useful plant. Most parts are used as food. Don't be fooled! Since coming to the U. S. in 1876 to help control soil erosion, it has become a bully. It strangles and suffocates all plants in its path including large trees. Some reports state that it can grow over 1 foot a day! Look for it along highways and in open fields. BEWARE!



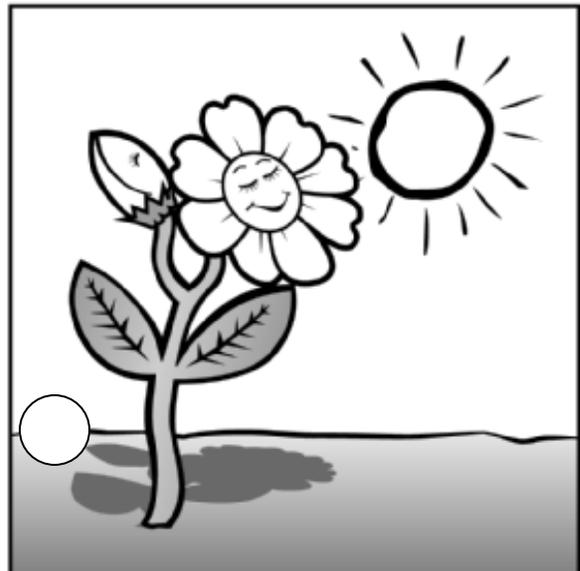
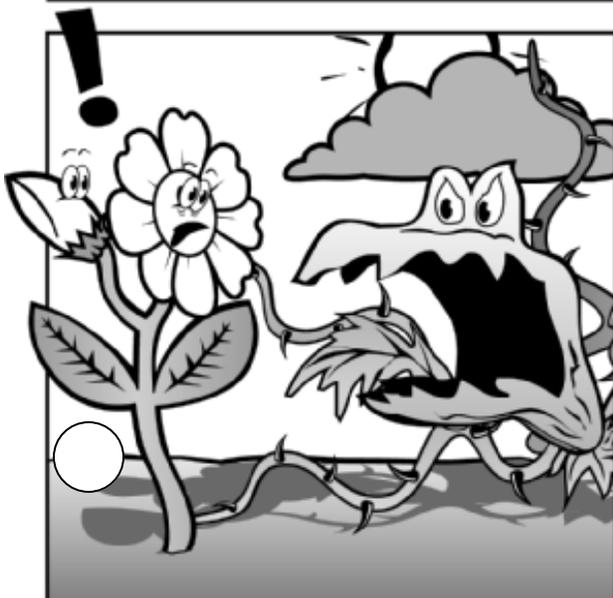
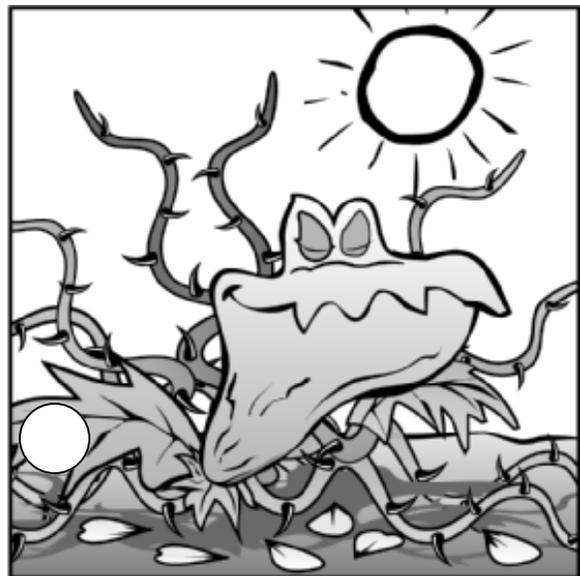
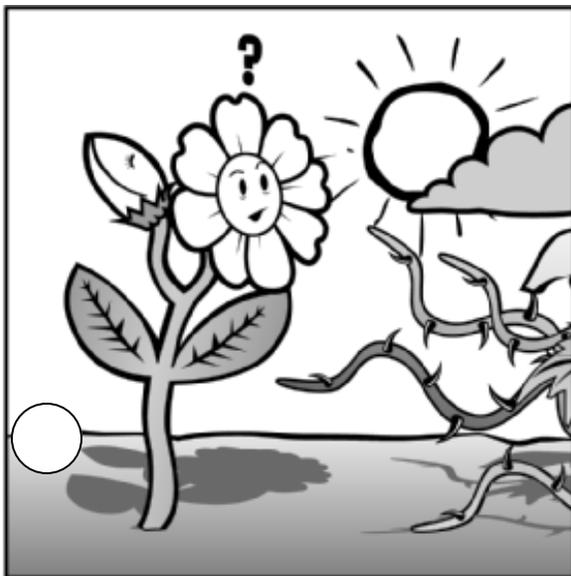
**CHINESE PRIVET** All floodplain and riverbank plants must be on the alert for this invader. It was brought from China to the United States in 1852 by nurserymen. They wanted a pretty shrub to plant in people's yards. However, privet escaped from yards! Now it hides out along rivers as well as in woods and city neighborhoods. Privet loves to grow in fertile floodplain soils. It plants some of its seeds by dropping lots of dark blue berries into rivers. The seeds float downstream and find new places to take over!

# INVADERS! Worksheet

Sometimes, when humans move plants or animals from one country to another or sow seeds from far away places, scary things happen. While some introduced species are very useful, others are truly invaders. With no natural enemies they can push out the native plants and animals. Introduced species can be a serious threat to native species.

What happens when a plant invader comes? *To find out, number the pictures in the correct order.*

1. A young plant is enjoying the sun.
2. A plant bully approaches.
3. The young plant looks scared as the bully reaches for it.
4. All you can see is the bully plant.



Describe what happens to the native plants when the invaders take over their habitats.