

Name:

Date:

Student Handout: “Un-Wanted” Poster

For this assignment, you will choose a plant, animal, or disease that is not already found in the United States and explore what could happen if it became established here. You may choose a pest or disease that is already known to cause problems in other countries (in a natural ecosystem or an agricultural system) or you can choose anything else that you feel might become a problem if it becomes established here (such as hyenas, or kangaroos, or the European beech tree).

Date Project Assigned: _____

Date Draft of Assignment Due: _____

Due Date for Final Project: _____

In your research, you must answer the following questions:

1. To which country is this particular animal, plant, disease, etc. native?
 - a. Is it found anywhere else?
2. What habitat is it found in?
 - a. What is this habitat's average temperature, average rainfall, etc.?
 - b. Do you find a similar habitat here in the United States? If so, where?
3. What is the life history of this organism?
 - a. What does it look like?
 - b. Does it look different at different times in its life (particularly important if it is an insect)?
 - c. When does it become reproductive and at what time during the year does it reproduce? How much offspring does it produce (at one time and over its lifetime)?
 - d. How does it reproduce? Does it reproduce asexually or does it need a partner?
 - e. How long does it live? Does it undergo hibernation?
 - f. What does it eat? Is a similar food source found here?
 - g. If it is a disease, what does it attack? Is the host found here? Does it kill its host? How does it do this?
 - h. How does it disperse?
4. What impact could this organism have on an ecosystem found in the United States?

Next, you will put together this information in the form of a poster created using PowerPoint.

1. Open up PowerPoint, make the slide blank, and size the “slide” to 40 inches X 30 inches.
2. To insert text, insert a text box. For a title, use font size 72. For subtitles, use font size 48. For all other text, use font size 28 or 32. Be sure to put your name under the title in size 48 font.
3. You can insert images as well. Make sure your images measure approximately 5 inches X 7 inches.
4. If you want to line things up, click on View then choose ruler and grid lines.
5. Be sure to include a text box that contains your references.
 - a. You may use no more than 3 web references so make sure you choose good websites.
 - b. You must use at least 3 book references.
 - c. There are several scientific journals that you can access online. Should you use them, they will be considered book references, not web references.
6. To print your poster on an 8.5 X 11 piece of paper, click print, then choose “scale to fit paper”.
7. You are welcome to use a background color for your poster if you wish, just remember that a lighter colored background with dark colored text looks best and that keeping it simple is best. Try to avoid flashy and complex backgrounds and fonts as they detract from what you are saying.