



# WATCH OUT! INVASIVE SPECIES ARE ON THE LOOSE IN LOUISIANA!

Link to our exhibit: "Louisiana's Present: A heronry in South Louisiana"

## INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species are plants and animals that come from other countries, spreading quickly in their new habitat. These species threaten native species, the creatures that already live in the area, and potentially destroy ecosystems.

For instance, Water hyacinth, with its beautiful purple flower, seems to be a wonderful addition to our swamps. In reality, this South American plant is clogging many waterways, and millions of dollars are being spent to try to control this exotic species! Other common invasive species in Louisiana are the Nutria, Grass Carp and Silver Carp, Alligatorweed, Hydrilla, Salvinia, Water Lettuce, Purple Loosestrife, Chinese Tallow and Zebra Mussel.

You can help in many ways: don't adopt, transplant or move exotic species! Never buy them from the store to use them as decorative plants or as pets. When you go fishing, clean up your boat engine when going from one location to another. And always report exotic species locations to your department of wildlife and fisheries!

Can you be on the look out for invasive species? To help, you can create your own "Invasive Species Watch Data Chart". When you travel around Louisiana or if you go fishing, take good note of what's out there!

		Your Name:			
What is the species?					
What is its origin?					
Where did you see it?					
When was that?					
How was it moved there?					
How does it cause problems?					
Did you call Wildlife officials?					





## GAME 1: WHO ARE THE INTRUDERS?

Look at the drawing below. Some plants and animals in the drawing are not native to Louisiana. They were imported and are now threatening our swamps! Can you find them and draw them in the boxes?



**Invasive  
Species**


