

Arizona Wildlife Podcast Comprehension Activity

Episode 2: Invasive Species

Part A: Determine whether each statement below is true or false. If it is false, correct the statement so that it will be true.

1. All non-native species are invasive.

False. Some non-native species are invasive but some non-natives do not cause damage to the ecosystems.

2. Arizona has two species of native crayfish.

False. Arizona does have two confirmed species of crayfish. However, neither of them is native.

3. Exotic lovebird populations live in Phoenix.

True.

Part B: Compare and contrast the phrases in each list below.

1. Exotic species Non-native species Invasive Species

Exotic and Non-native are often used interchangeable. However, some people refer to exotic species as those that come from another country while non-native are those that come from a different area in the same country. An invasive species is a non-native or exotic species that causes damage to an ecosystem.

2. Open water system Closed water system

An open water system is water that is connected to other water sources. Lakes and rivers flowing together are a good example. A closed water system is an isolated water source, such as a water tank. It is extremely difficult to control invasive species in open water systems.

Part C: Answer each question below in complete sentences. The answers are not necessarily included in the content. They may require some critical thinking.

1. Is it possible for a native species to be invasive?

Answers will vary.

2. How long does a species have to be in an area before it is considered native?

Answers will vary. Often, any animal found prior to the arrival of European people is considered native. However, is that always appropriate. Javelinas are a really recent arrival to Arizona. It came here naturally. Is it native or non-native?

3. Can an invasive species help as well as harm an ecosystem?

Answers will vary. However, an example is crayfish in certain waterways. Although they are extremely devastating, they also serve as a food source for local and migratory birds such as herons and egrets.

4. Some invasive species are spread through activities such as hiking and fishing. Should we limit outdoor recreation activities to limit the spread of invasive species?

Answers will vary.