

The Wonder Whys of AIS

Name _____

Warm Up

Student Worksheet (1 of 2)

Use the provided words, to fill in the blanks below:

environmental *non-native* *outcompete* *wide* *economic* *grow* *quickly*

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are aquatic, _____ species that cause _____ and _____ harm.

The five traits that all aquatic invasive species have in common are they

- _____ fast
- Spread easily
- _____ other species
- Reproduce _____
- Tolerate a _____ range of environmental conditions

AIS Inquiry

Use the provided lesson materials to first complete the table below.

Organism	What adaptations make it invasive?	Pathway(s) of Introduction and Methods of Dispersal	Impacts	Currently in Montana? (Y/N) If so, where?
Zebra/Quagga Mussel <i>Dreissena sp.</i>				
Eurasian Watermilfoil <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>				
North American Bullfrog <i>Rana catesbeiana</i>				

Answer the questions below with complete sentences.

A. What do all of the aquatic invasive species in this activity have in common?

B. How do you fit in? How could an aquatic invasive species impact you or your family?

C. How could you help to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species?



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The Wonder Whys of AIS

Wrap Up

Student Worksheet (2 of 2)

Summarize Your Understanding of AIS

Native Aquatic Species in N.W. Montana

Northern Watermilfoil
Myriophyllum sibiricum



Western Pearlshell
Margaritifera falcata



Western Boreal Toad (native)
Anaxyrus boreas



Columbia Spotted Frog
Rana luteiventris



Use specific EVIDENCE from this activity to write a 4-sentence paragraph in response to the prompt below. Be sure to include the following in your paragraph:

- ☐ Claim (topic sentence)
- ☐ Evidence (2 sentences with supporting ideas)
- ☐ Reasoning (wrap-up sentence)

Interspecific competition is a form of competition in which two individuals of **DIFFERENT** species compete for the same resources in an ecosystem (ex. food, shelter, water, nutrients, sunlight, etc.). Select one aquatic invasive species from this activity and explain how its adaptations help it to out-compete one of the native species in Montana (see the diagram to the left).



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