

Invasive Species Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Invasive Species trivia explores the surprising stories behind organisms introduced beyond their native ranges, from zebra mussels and cane toads to kudzu and lionfish. As global trade and travel accelerated over the past few centuries, many species spread into new habitats and sometimes overwhelmed local ecosystems, making this a timely topic that blends science, history, and a few unexpectedly funny facts.

HARD INVASIVE SPECIES TRIVIA

1. Which 1996 book by Mark Williamson is often cited in invasion-biology reading lists?

Answer: Biological Invasions

2. The 1998 book 'The Song of the Dodo,' touching on island biogeography and extinctions, was written by whom?

Answer: David Quammen

3. Which specialist group compiled the IUCN list titled '100 of the World's Worst Invasive Alien Species'?

Answer: The Invasive Species Specialist Group

4. After one of the world's largest rodent-removal campaigns in the 2010s, which island completed eradication of invasive rats and mice?

Answer: South Georgia

5. Introduced Arctic foxes caused long-term ecological damage on seabird islands in which archipelago?

Answer: The Aleutian Islands

6. Which species was deliberately introduced in many places for biological control, only to become invasive later?

Answer: *Harmonia axyridis*

7. What organism goes by the memorably gross nickname 'rock snot'?

Answer: *Didymosphenia geminata*

8. The rusty crayfish is native to which basin, despite being invasive in parts of the upper Midwest and Canada?

Answer: The Ohio River basin

9. Which plant invaded large areas of South Florida wetlands after first being planted for drainage and ornament?

Answer: *Melaleuca quinquenervia*

10. Which parasitic fly is an invasive threat to birds in the Galápagos?

Answer: *Philornis downsi*

11. Dutch elm disease spread in part through which insect group?

Answer: Elm bark beetles

12. Where on the U.S. Atlantic coast was *Hemigrapsus sanguineus* first reported in 1988?

Answer: New Jersey

13. Who is the prominent invasion ecologist listed as a coauthor of the textbook 'Invasion Ecology'?

Answer: Julie Lockwood

14. Name the 1998 book by David Quammen that explores island biogeography and extinctions.?

Answer: The Song of the Dodo

FUNNY INVASIVE SPECIES TRIVIA

1. Which invasive earthworm earned its bouncy-sounding name because it thrashes wildly when disturbed, as if the soil just told it bad news?

Answer: Jumping worm

2. True or false: A 'mile-a-minute' plant got its nickname because it grows by slowly considering its options.?

Answer: False

3. What small crustacean has the wildly overdramatic common name 'killer shrimp'?

Answer: *Dikerogammarus villosus*

4. Which invasive animal can puff itself up like an unwanted pool toy, making it harder for predators to swallow?

Answer: Cane toad

5. Despite the snack-sounding name, which invasive comb jelly is definitely not something you'd crack open at dessert?

Answer: Sea walnut

6. *Nutria* sometimes get called what gloriously rude nickname, even though they're actually large South American rodents?

Answer: Swamp rats

7. Which invasive ant got its common name because it runs around erratically, like it forgot where it parked?

Answer: Crazy ant

8. What flatworm is named for a broad head shaped a bit like a hammer or shovel?

Answer: Hammerhead flatworm

9. In some regions, *Chromolaena odorata* goes by what villain-worthy common name?

Answer: Devil weed

10. Which invasive amphibian can be deadly to pets if they bite or mouth it, thanks to its toxin?

Answer: Cane toad

11. The nickname 'coppertop' is used for which invasive ant because of its reddish color?

Answer: Red imported fire ant

12. Which fish name basically gives away the design feature right up front by describing its mouth shape?

Answer: Suckermouth catfish

13. Which fish is often nicknamed 'jumping carp' because it may leap when startled by boat motors?

Answer: Silver carp

FUN INVASIVE SPECIES TRIVIA

1. Which gelatinous invader became especially notorious after showing up in the Black Sea?

Answer: *Mnemiopsis leidyi*

2. What fish can do a brief wriggle-on-land routine that helps it spread?

Answer: Walking catfish

3. In Hawaii, which introduced frog is famous for its loud nighttime calls?

Answer: Coqui frog

4. Which introduced Pacific-island snail became infamous for helping push native snails toward extinction?

Answer: Rosy wolfsnail

5. When people say 'kudzu,' which vine are they usually talking about?

Answer: *Pueraria montana*

6. Which notorious bees arose in Brazil after hybrid bees escaped from a research program in 1957?

Answer: Africanized honey bees

7. What parasite uses a suction-cup mouth lined with teeth to feed?

Answer: Sea lamprey

8. Which fish can breathe air, helping it stay alive out of water for a while?

Answer: Northern snakehead

9. Which invasive plant can mess with beneficial fungi used by some forest trees?

Answer: Garlic mustard

10. Which tiny invader is famous for building enormous supercolonies in places it invades?

Answer: Argentine ant

11. The introduced Nile perch is linked to declines of many native cichlid fishes in which lake?

Answer: Lake Victoria

12. True or false: Crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks can devastate coral reefs, even though the species is native in much of the Indo-Pacific.?

Answer: True

13. What is the scientific name of the golden mussel, an invasive freshwater mollusk in South America?

Answer: *Limnoperna fortunei*

INVASIVE SPECIES FAMILY TRIVIA

1. In the United States, what law was enacted in 1996 to address invasive species issues?

Answer: The National Invasive Species Act

2. Zebra mussels often hitch a ride from one lake to another on what two things?

Answer: Boats and trailers

3. What ship-related water has been a major pathway for invasive species in ports?

Answer: Ballast water

4. What is the current scientific name for the cane toad after it was changed from *Bufo marinus*?

Answer: *Rhinella marina*

5. Which invasive aquatic plant is often nicknamed 'the perfect aquatic weed'?

Answer: Hydrilla

6. Which wetland invader is known for tall spikes of purple flowers?

Answer: Purple loosestrife

7. What moth in North America was long known by the older name 'gypsy moth'?

Answer: Spongy moth

8. Which invasive insect threatens eastern hemlock trees?

Answer: Hemlock woolly adelgid

9. What invasive beetle attacks hardwood trees such as maple, elm, and birch?

Answer: Asian longhorned beetle

10. Which invasive grass helps fire spread in parts of the U.S. West?

Answer: Cheatgrass

11. What tall reed has invaded many North American marshes?

Answer: *Phragmites australis*

12. Which invasive animal damages crops and habitat in many U.S. states?

Answer: Feral hogs

EASY INVASIVE SPECIES TRIVIA

1. In 1988, zebra mussels were first detected in which North American region?

Answer: The Great Lakes

2. Which animal was introduced to Australia in 1935 to try to control beetles in sugarcane fields?

Answer: Cane toads

3. What fast-growing vine was promoted in the United States for erosion control during the 1930s?

Answer: Kudzu

4. Major bird losses followed the introduction of the brown tree snake on which island?

Answer: Guam

5. In the United States, the label 'Asian carp' commonly refers to several invasive carp species in what river basin?

Answer: The Mississippi River basin

6. What beetle kills ash trees in North America?

Answer: The emerald ash borer

7. Burmese pythons are established invasive snakes in which famous wetland?

Answer: The Florida Everglades

8. Through which port did the red imported fire ant enter the United States?

Answer: Mobile, Alabama

9. Which floating invasive plant is known for clogging waterways?

Answer: Water hyacinth

10. What invasive fish-like parasite reached the upper Great Lakes after routes around Niagara Falls became available?

Answer: The sea lamprey

11. What is the name of the major U.S. law from 1900 used against illegal wildlife trade and harmful introductions?

Answer: The Lacey Act

12. Which bird was introduced to New York City's Central Park in the 1890s?

Answer: The European starling

13. Nutria were introduced to the United States for what business purpose?

Answer: Fur farming

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/invasive-species>