

Third Grade Lesson Plan
1 day Presentation – Version #3 (updated 9-9-03)

- Time:** 45 minutes (best if 1 hour is allowed)
- Curriculum:** Focusing on native vs. non-native plants in the Jackson Hole area.
- Objective:** The 3rd grade students will distinguish the difference between native and non-native species, focusing on the effect noxious weeds have on an ecosystem.
- Goal:** By the end of the lesson, each group of students will present a short oral presentation on one species of noxious weed, analyzing its impact on the native species in our local area.
- Materials:** Weeds of the West (1 per group); Noxious Weed Handbooks (1 per student); JHWMA & Snake R. Project brochures; examples of noxious weeds either pictures, pressed samples, or real plants; large construction paper; packets of fun pages for students.
- Wyoming State Standards Addressed:**
Science K-4: 1.3, 2.1, 2.2a-e, 3.2a, 3.2b
Lang. Arts Grade 3: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5

- Start-15 minutes:**
1. Introductions
 2. Write on the board a list of local species, native and non-native.
 3. Ask the students to predict which are “native” and “non-native.” Establish clear definitions of both. Native- occurs naturally in an area. Non-native- any not naturally occurring in the ecosystems of the United States becomes non-native once it is introduced.
 4. If predictions were not accurate identify the non-natives for students, discuss each species and where you might find them
 5. Focusing on the native animals, what plants do they depend on for survival? What other species depend on these native plants?

- 15-30 minutes:** Divide the class into 4 equal groups. Each group will research one species that has been introduced. Ask them to analyze the impact this noxious weed will have on the native plants. How will that effect the other species in an ecosystem?

- 30-45 minutes:** Each group is given 3-4 minutes (longer in the 1 hour version) to summarize their findings and make an oral presentation to the class. Close with answering questions and discussing how the students can help to stop the spread of noxious weeds

List of Species: Native: Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle, Grizzly Bear, Buffalo, Elk, Moose, Indian Paintbrush, Willow, Sagebrush, Cutthroat Trout, Mountain Lion, Lupine. Non-native: Oxeye Daisy, Musk thistle, Toadflax, Spotted knapweed, Saltcedar, Lake Trout, Leafy spurge, Houndstongue, Perennial pepperweed, Common tansy.