

**Science  
Literacy  
Week**

**Remove  
the  
Invaders**

# Science Literacy Week - Remove the Invaders

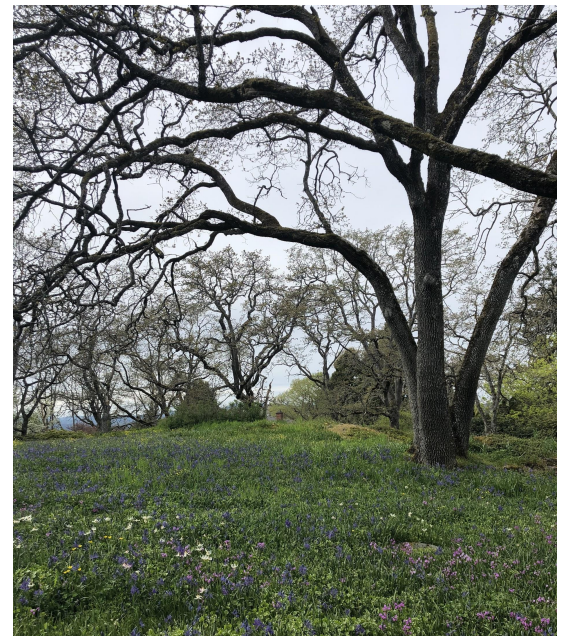
Learn about the importance of biodiversity in the beautiful and unique Garry oak ecosystems found on Southern Vancouver Island. Try the Remove the Invaders! activity to see if you can correctly identify native and invasive species.

## Materials

- Printer
- Paper
- Scissors

## Safety Considerations

- Be careful when using scissors, age appropriate adult supervision required



## Keywords

**Biodiversity:** the variety of all life on Earth.

**Species:** a group of living things that share common characteristics and are capable of interbreeding to produce fertile offspring.

**Native species:** a species that exists in its natural habitat.

**Invasive species:** an organism from another region of the world that doesn't belong in its new environment. They can destroy biodiversity and habitats, leading to the extinction of native species.

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## Background Information - Garry Oak Ecosystems

Breathing clean air, drinking fresh water, and eating nutritious food are daily activities that are made possible by biodiversity. This is because every species, including humans, is connected and relies on each other to survive. If one piece of biodiversity disappears, other species can be harmed, so it is important to keep the biodiversity of our local areas strong!

Garry oak ecosystems are extremely unique and biodiverse areas that are found here on Vancouver Island. Sadly, a lot of these areas have been destroyed and less than 5% of the original habitat is left. This is because of land development, fire suppression, and most of all, invasion of species.



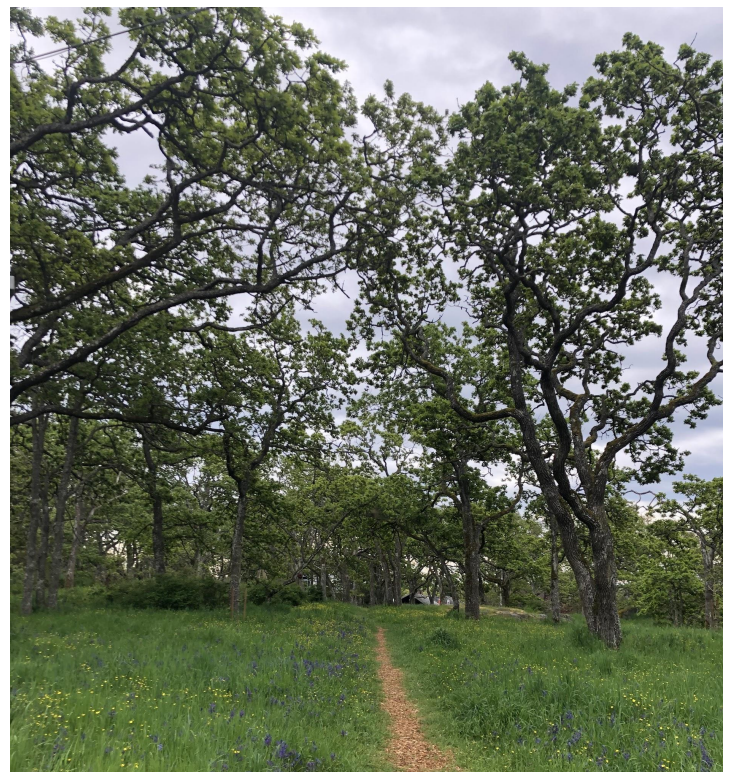
Invasive species compete with native species and are often more successful because they don't have natural predators. These plants and animals take over the Garry oak ecosystem, reducing native biodiversity, and leading to the extinction of local species.

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Can you help restore the Garry oak ecosystem?

## Steps

- 1) Prepare the activity by printing out the memory tiles, found on next page, and cutting along the dashed lines. Shuffle the tiles and place them face down in front of you.
- 2) The goal of this activity is to find and remove all pairs of invasive species from among the native Garry oak ecosystem plants and animals (just like an ecological restoration)!
- 3) To play the game, choose two tiles to flip over at a time. You are looking specifically for invasive species. Only invasive species will have matching tiles. Once you find a match, remove those tiles and repeat.
- 4) There are five invasive species in the game tiles. Here are some clues as to what they look like:
  - A slimy invertebrate
  - A hibernating critter
  - A woody shrub
  - A scrumptious fruit
  - A colourful herb
- 5) Once you have removed all five pairs of invasive species tiles you have spotted all the invaders! Now you can flip over the remaining tiles and see the wonderful species native to the Garry oak ecosystem. Next time you go for a walk, see if you can spot any of them around you.
- 6) This activity can be completed by yourself or with a friend by taking turns!



# Science Literacy Week



Scotch broom



Scotch broom



Black slug



Black slug



Eastern grey squirrel



Eastern grey squirrel



Himalayan blackberry



Himalayan blackberry



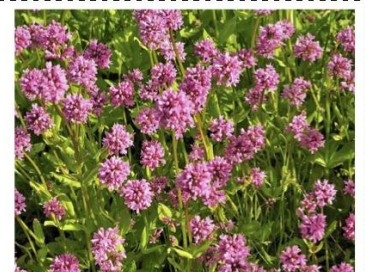
Purple dead nettle



Purple dead nettle



Common camas



Seablush



White fawn lily



Western blue bird



Broad-leaved shootingstar



Garry oak



Western tiger swallowtail



California Brome



Arbutus



Woodland strawberry



Red-tailed bumble bee



Nodding onion



Western buttercup



Yarrow

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#SciLitWeek

Want to share your  
project or results with us?

Email or tag us  
@ScienceVenture



Have a question?

Reach us at  
[svworkshops@engr.uvic.ca](mailto:svworkshops@engr.uvic.ca)