

Kids vs Adults Road Trip Quiz – Unwanted Visitors – Invasive Species

Hello, fabulous Squiz Kids listeners -

And welcome to the Kids v Adults ROAD TRIP QUIZ on Unwanted Visitors – Invasive Species ...

I'm Christie Kijurina...

All through term one in the Squiz Kids daily podcast, we've been bringing you the big news stories of the day - run through our kid-friendly filter - to make sure you know all you need to know about the world around you. And at the end of every week - we've tested how much you retained in the Kids v Adults Weekly News S'Quiz ...

But now, because it's the winter holidays, we're presenting a couple of Road Trip Quizzes .. on some fun topics - to help you pass the time on those big holiday road trips, or while away the long hours at home during the school hols ...

The object of these kids vs adults quizzes – it's simple to see who's smarter: kids or adults ...

Here's how this quiz works: ten questions for kids to test your knowledge of Unwanted Visitors – Invasive Species - then ten questions for adults.

Whoever answers the most correct questions wins. Easy Peasy.

Are you ready? Let's do this ...

BREAK

Alright kids - here are your ten questions ...

1. An invasive species is a living thing that arrives somewhere it doesn't naturally belong and begins causing harm. Which of these could be an invasive species?

- A. Only animals.
- B. Animals, plants and even tiny organisms.
- C. Only creatures with very bad manners.

2. Which poisonous invasive animal was introduced to Queensland in 1935 to gobble up beetles attacking sugar-cane crops? Here's a hint: it also lends its name to the mascot of Queensland's State of Origin rugby league team.

3. Red fire ants, originally from South America and now in parts of Eastern Australia have a remarkable survival trick during floods. Thousands of ants link their bodies together to form which of these? A. A living raft. B. An ant-sized submarine. C. A living ant parachute.

4. Varroa mites, originally from Asia, feed on an insect that lives in colonies, makes something sweet and helps pollinate many of our food crops. Which insect is it?

5. Here's a pop culture! Pokémon fans, this one is for you. Which Pokémon was introduced to the Alola region to help control the Rattata population? A. Yungoos. B. Squirtle. C. Snorlax.

6. Back to reality...A huge fence stretching more than 1,800 kilometres across Western Australia was completed in 1907 to help keep out which invasive animal? It's called the _____ Proof Fence... I'll give you a hint... it's an animal that hops...

7. When cargo ships aren't carrying enough cargo, they pump water into special tanks to keep themselves stable and balanced. Tiny marine creatures can be sucked in at one port and released at another where they might become invasive. What is this water called? A. Stow Away Water. B. Pirate water. C. Ballast water

8. Prickly pear cactus once spread across millions of hectares of Australia. Which small creature was introduced to help bring it under control? It worked by tunnelling into and eating the prickly pear plants. A. The cactus-chewing penguin. B. The Cactoblastis moth. C. The giant African snail.

9. Here's some more invasive ants.... Yellow crazy ants are invasive in parts of northern Australia and on Christmas Island. Why are they called "crazy" ants? A. They run around in frantic, unpredictable directions. B. They make a tiny crazy laugh while stealing food. C. They build their nests upside down.

10. True or false? Every plant or animal brought to Australia from another country automatically becomes an invasive species.

Answers:

1. B. Animals, plants and even tiny organisms.
2. Cane Toads
3. A. A living raft.
4. Honey bees

5. A. Yungoos. This fictional species was brought to Alola to control rattata but it didn't work properly because Yungoos hunt during the day while the Rattata come out at night. That mirrors the real story of mongooses introduced to Hawai'i to control rats. Rats were mainly nocturnal and mongooses mainly active during the day, so the mongooses instead ate native birds, reptiles and eggs.
6. The Rabbit Proof Fence...it didn't work too well though...
7. C. Ballast water
8. B. The Cactoblastis moth. Its caterpillars tunnel into and eat prickly pear plants.... They are some very hungry caterpillars.
9. A. They run around in frantic, unpredictable directions.
10. False. A species has to spread and cause damage to be considered invasive. Plenty of introduced plants and animals never become invasive.

How did you go, kids? How many did you get right out of ten? Reckon you're going to beat the adults? Yeah - I reckon so too..

Alright adults - now it's your turn ...fire up the grey matter - here we go ...

1. Australia's devastating rabbit invasion has been traced largely to a group of just 24 wild rabbits released on a Victorian estate in 1859. Why did landowner Thomas Austin release them? A. To control weeds. B. To provide food for farm workers. C. For recreational hunting.
2. Burmese pythons have established a quite a large population in the Florida Everglades in the USA, probably after pet snakes escaped or were released. Which continent do these giant snakes originally come from?

3. Which beautiful but highly poisonous flowering plant was officially declared a pest in Tasmania in 2025? I'll give you a hint, the name sounds like something a bushy-tailed animal might wear on their paws.
4. For this question, I'm looking for the name of an invasive fish that belongs in the Indo-Pacific but has become an unwelcome guest in the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea. It has bold stripes and a mane of long, fan-like fins. Its name makes it sound more at home roaring on the African savannah. What is it?
5. Half way through and a pop culture question for you adults... In the 1995 episode of The Simpsons called Bart vs Australia, Bart accidentally releases a bullfrog into the Australian environment. At the end of the episode, which Australian native animal is shown secretly hitching a ride back to America?
6. In 1932, Australian troops were called in to help Western Australian farmers protect their wheat crops from thousands of troublesome—but native—birds (so technically I guess it was actually the humans who were invasive ones)... Which animals gave their name to the so-called Great _____ War? Where the birds were the clear winners.
7. South American Tropical soda apple is not a lovely fizzy drink... it's a prickly invasive plant found mainly in coastal NSW. What do its immature fruits look like? A. Fluffy pink marshmallows. B. Long yellow bananas. C. Tiny striped watermelons.
8. An invasive population of hippopotamuses in Colombia descended from animals that escaped from the private zoo of which notorious drug lord?
9. *Caulerpa taxifolia* is a fast-spreading invasive seaweed that can regrow from tiny broken fragments. What sinister two-word nickname is it often given? A. The Sea monster. B. Killer algae. C. Devil's parsley.

10. Scientists searching for invasive species can test water for tiny traces of genetic material shed in skin, scales, slime and waste. These molecules are called 'Environmental' or 'e' what 3 letter abbreviation?

Answers:

1. C. For recreational hunting.
2. Burmese pythons are native to Myanmar... the country formerly known as Burma ... which is in the south of Asia
3. Foxglove
4. The lionfish
5. A koala
6. Emu... we'll have to do a shortcut on this one ...
7. C. Tiny striped watermelons.
8. Pablo Escobar - after his death, hippos from his private collection escaped and multiplied. There are thought to be about 200 there now.
9. B. Killer algae.
10. eDNA (environmental DNA) lets scientists detect a species without actually seeing or catching it.

How did you go adults? How many did you get right?

Did you beat the kids? Who took the crown this week?

OK, we've given your brain cells a work out ... now time for...

>> SHOUTOUTS

And it's a very happy birthday to these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today and over the past weekAnd because it's a Friday, let's crack out that ol' birthday reggae tune... Hit it!

Noah and Thomas from Albany Creek, Amelia from Beecroft, Tully, Will and Tejay from Belmont, Tommy from Berry, Allie from Dover Heights, Hayley from Exeter, Heva and Edward from Forest Lake, Zahdi from Geelong, Noah from Gulfview Heights, Chloe from Heidelberg West, Duncan from Highett, Ryka and Rylee from Kurri Kurri, Rachel from Lakes Entrances, Ellie from Landsdale, Harriet M from Lane Cove West, Kaylee, Sarina, Ela and Noah from Mansfield, Ben from Melbourne, Freddie and Myrtle from North Melbourne, Mia from Old Toongabbie, Maeve from Queanbeyan, Thea from Rosewood, Andy from Shoalhaven Heads, Hudson from Tanilba Bay, Quinn from Telegraph Point, Chloe and Yuvan from Vermont South, Thomas from Warnervale, Conner and Reece from West Albury, Bronson from Windsor, Jake from Yass, Kiara from South Australia and Harry listening over in Palmerston North, New Zealand.

Well - that's all we have time for.

I hope you're enjoying these quizzes.

If you're hanging out for something to do over the holidays, we have a whole back catalogue for you to listen to. And the best bit, they're all free!

Check it all out at squizkids.com.au ... or find it all in the Squiz Kids feed of your favourite podcasting app – and remember if you subscribe all this excellent audio content will magically appear. Have fun listening, and we'll be back again tomorrow with an excellent Science Short when we answer a question from Audrey who is 10 years old and lives in Naremburn. She wants to know 'Can a magnet really erase a phone's memory?'

For now, though - this is Christie signing off - and reminding you to get out there and have a most excellent day ... over and out.