SfS Away from the Classroom!

Life Science 4: Invasive Species (Recommended for Grades 3-5)

Please use the following resources to learn about invasive species and ecosystem competition!

Watch this Video: https://youtu.be/spTWwqVP_2s

Answer these questions:

- What makes a species "invasive" versus "native"?
- What factors allow invasive species to be so successful in their new ecosystems?
- "Invasive" species are also called "introduced" species - why are they called that?

Activities:

1. Visit this webpage to play "Invaders!". In this interactive game, you must identify and remove invasive species from ecosystems around the world before they take over! https://mass.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/plum14.sci.life.invaders/invaders/

2. Play our game to model how invasive species can out-compete native species for resources. You will need:
    - Several small tokens (coins, paperclips, cut-up paper, beads, etc.)
    - A clock or timer
    - A fork, spoon, and/or other eating utensil

To play the game, place the small tokens in a cluster and set the timer for 30 seconds. Your goal is to (one by one) pick up as many tokens as you can and place them in front of you. First, try to pick up the tokens using only a single spoon. How many tokens did you get after 30 seconds? Then try again using a single fork. How many tokens did you get this time? Experiment with different tools and techniques. Finally, try using your own hands (no tools). What tool or technique allowed you to collect the most tokens in 30 seconds? Most likely, it was your hands!

Using the various tools to collect the tokens represents local species hunting their food, and using your hands represents invasive species in the same ecosystem. If you were racing to collect the most, the "invasive species" would win and leave the "local species" with no tokens… no food!

Make observations & use Claims, Evidence, and Reasoning!

1. **Claim**: There are invasive (or "introduced") species in my local area.
    - **Evidence**:
    - **Reasoning**:

2. **Claim**: There are NOT invasive (or "introduced") species in my local area.
    - **Evidence**:
    - **Reasoning**:

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