

## Some introduced pests in Australia

Australia has a number of introduced animal and plant species that are now considered as pests.

Each of the following is, or was, a pest in the Australian environment: water hyacinth, prickly pear, marine invertebrates such as seastars and mussels, feral cats and the cane toad.

Use internet resources to investigate one of these pests, or another organism that is an introduced pest in your area.

In this activity, you will be working in groups or individually to research the problem and present information about pest control.

### You will need:

- the pest animal section of *Biotechnology Online*
- internet access
- list of relevant internet sites (see possible references)
- materials for writing and giving a presentation

### What to do:

1. Try to find out:
  - when and why the organism was introduced
  - what environmental problems are caused by this pest
  - what other problems the pest causes (for example, for farmers, campers or other members of the community)
  - what efforts have been made to control the pest
  - what success there has been.
2. Read *Methods of control of feral pests* from *Biotechnology Online* to provide you with some ideas about possible control methods.

3. Prepare a presentation that includes the following.
- Explain what you have found about the organism you have chosen and the efforts to control it (past, present and research for the future).
  - Suggest some physical methods of control that might be tried, explaining how they may work and what difficulties need to be overcome.
  - Describe any possible methods of biological control that have been suggested and whether they are being implemented. If they are not being used, explain why.
  - Explain any ideas you may have for further research to control the pest using modern biotechnology.

**Possible references:****Cane toad**

- CSIRO Cane Toad Research:  
<http://www.csiro.au/science/CaneToadResearch.html>
- Cane toads, giant toads or marine toads:  
[www.austmus.gov.au/factsheets/canetoad.htm](http://www.austmus.gov.au/factsheets/canetoad.htm)

**Water hyacinth**

- CSIRO: [www.ento.csiro.au/biocontrol/hyacinth.html](http://www.ento.csiro.au/biocontrol/hyacinth.html)
- Milton Rural Landcare: <http://www.presoz.com.au/landcare/welcome.html>
- Australian Plants Online: <http://asgap.org.au/APOL16/dec99-2.html>

**Prickly pear**

- Australian Plants Online: <http://asgap.org.au/APOL2008/mar08-s3.html>
- DPI Victoria:  
[http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/DPI/nreninf.nsf/v/77BA5F251A33A4C9CA25740B007A9EB4/\\$file/Erect\\_Prickly\\_Pear.pdf](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/DPI/nreninf.nsf/v/77BA5F251A33A4C9CA25740B007A9EB4/$file/Erect_Prickly_Pear.pdf)
- Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines:  
[http://www.nrw.qld.gov.au/museum/articles\\_complete/surveying/pests.html](http://www.nrw.qld.gov.au/museum/articles_complete/surveying/pests.html)

**Marine invertebrates such as seastars and mussels**

- CSIRO: <http://www.marine.csiro.au/crimp/>
- CSIRO: <http://www.marine.csiro.au/crimp/cleanup/cleanup.htm>
- CSIRO: [http://www.marine.csiro.au/crimp/images/NIMPIS\\_PDF/8064.pdf](http://www.marine.csiro.au/crimp/images/NIMPIS_PDF/8064.pdf)
- WA Department of Fisheries:  
[www.fish.wa.gov.au/hab/broc/marineinvader/marine07.html](http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/hab/broc/marineinvader/marine07.html)

**Cats**

- Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment:  
<http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/SJON-52H4ZQ?open>
- Native animal network association: [www.nana.asn.au/n2-ferals.htm](http://www.nana.asn.au/n2-ferals.htm)
- Feral.org.au: [www.feral.org.au/species/cat.asp](http://www.feral.org.au/species/cat.asp)
- Department of Environment and Heritage:  
<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/publications/cat/pubs/cat.pdf>

**Camels**

- Feral.org.au: <http://www.feral.org.au/species/camel.asp>
- Department of Environment and Heritage:  
<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/publications/camel/pubs/camel.pdf>