

# Ontario Invasive Plant Council's **INVADER RAIDERS**



**ACTIVITY AND COLOURING BOOK**



# Invasive Species Checklist!

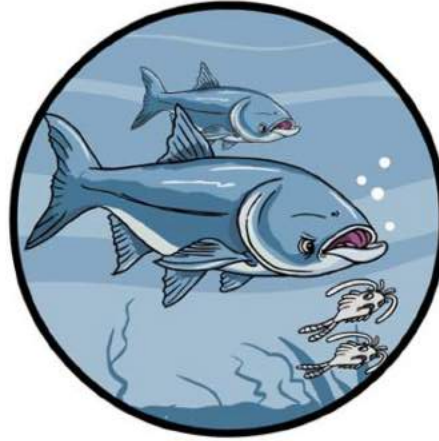
## Emerald Ash Borer



**What is it?** Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive bug that has killed millions of ash trees throughout Ontario.

- **Where did it come from?** EAB is from Asia and was brought here in wood material.
- **Cool facts:** It is a small metallic green bug with a purple body under the wings.
- **Where is it found?** EAB is found throughout Southern Ontario and in parts of Northern Ontario and Quebec.
- **What does it do?** It kills ash trees and threatens forests. Ash trees can be used to make baseball bats and snowshoes.
- **How can I be an Invader Raider?** Buy firewood locally!

## Asian Carp



**What is it?** Asian Carp is actually four different invasive fish: Silver Carp, Big-head Carp, Grass Carp, and Black Carp.

- **Where did it come from?** Asia. It was brought to the U.S. to keep ponds clean. They escaped during a flood and invaded the Mississippi River.
- **Cool facts:** They are large fish, and their eyes sit below or beside their mouth.
- **Where is it found?** Asian Carp are found in only one U.S. State. They are not yet in Canada.
- **What does it do?** Asian Carp eat the food that our native fish depend on and push them out of their habitats. Silver carp can jump up to 3 meters out of the water when there are vibrations from boat propellers. That can be dangerous for boaters!
- **How can I be an Invader Raider?** Don't dump live fish into Ontario lakes or rivers!

## Norway Maple



**What is it?** Norway maple is an invasive tree.

- **Where did it come from?** Europe. It was brought over as a garden tree.
- **Cool facts:** The leaves and twigs ooze a milky sap when they are cut or torn.
- **Where is it found?** Throughout Ontario because it is often planted along city and town streets. It also creeps into forests.
- **What does it do?** It threatens woodlands because it out-competes native trees and shrubs.
- **How can I be an Invader Raider?** Garden with non-invasive plants! Red Maple is a great tree you can plant instead. The birds, bugs and animals will thank you!

## Common Buckthorn



**What is it?** Common Buckthorn is an invasive shrub.

- **Where did it come from?** Europe. It was brought over as a garden plant and was used in fencerows on farms.
- **Cool facts:** Buckthorn has sharp thorns between the branches, and dark berries.
- **Where is it found?** Across Southern Ontario. It grows in open woods, thickets, fencerows, abandoned fields, and at road edges.
- **What does it do?** It invades natural areas by making shade so that native plants can't grow.
- **How can I be an Invader Raider?** Always garden with non-invasive plants!

*Help the Invader Raiders! Spread the word! Tell your parents and friends about these harmful species!*



# The Invader Raiders!

Welcome to the Ontario Invasive Plant Council Activity Book! We'd like you to meet our Superheroes, the Invader Raiders, who are helping to find and report invasive plants, animals and insects in Ontario. These Superheroes, along with their pooch, search all over the outdoors, looking for the invaders that take over the natural habitats of Ontario's own plants and animals.



*Brook, Dusty, Flora & Tracker the pooch!*

Invasive species are harmful because they disturb the balance of natural areas. They spread fast, leaving our native species fighting for food, sun and space.

You can be a Superhero too, by learning how to spot and stop the spread of invasive species starting right in your own backyard!

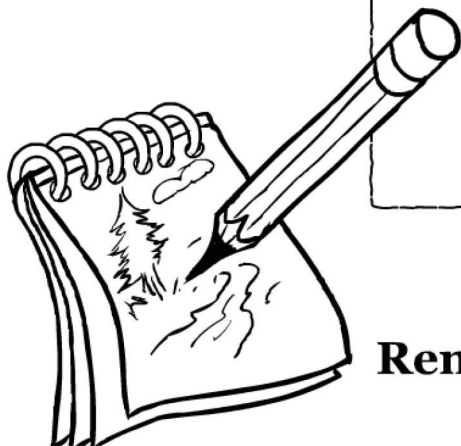




## Superhero Words To Find!

animals  
bug  
camera  
flora  
habitat  
identify  
invasive  
noninvasive  
notepad  
observe  
plants  
pond  
prevent  
rivers  
sketchbook  
superhero  
trees

X	S	K	E	T	C	H	B	O	O	K	I
I	N	U	J	N	O	T	E	P	A	D	K
A	S	O	P	H	H	A	B	I	T	A	T
N	Y	T	N	E	V	E	R	P	F	T	E
I	F	E	P	I	R	B	U	G	L	R	V
M	I	V	A	L	N	H	C	L	O	I	I
A	T	R	R	T	A	V	E	E	R	V	S
L	N	E	E	P	R	N	A	R	A	E	A
S	E	S	M	O	U	E	T	S	O	R	V
M	D	B	A	N	E	H	E	S	I	S	N
P	I	O	C	D	I	W	P	S	R	V	I
D	D	O	O	W	E	R	I	F	J	Z	E

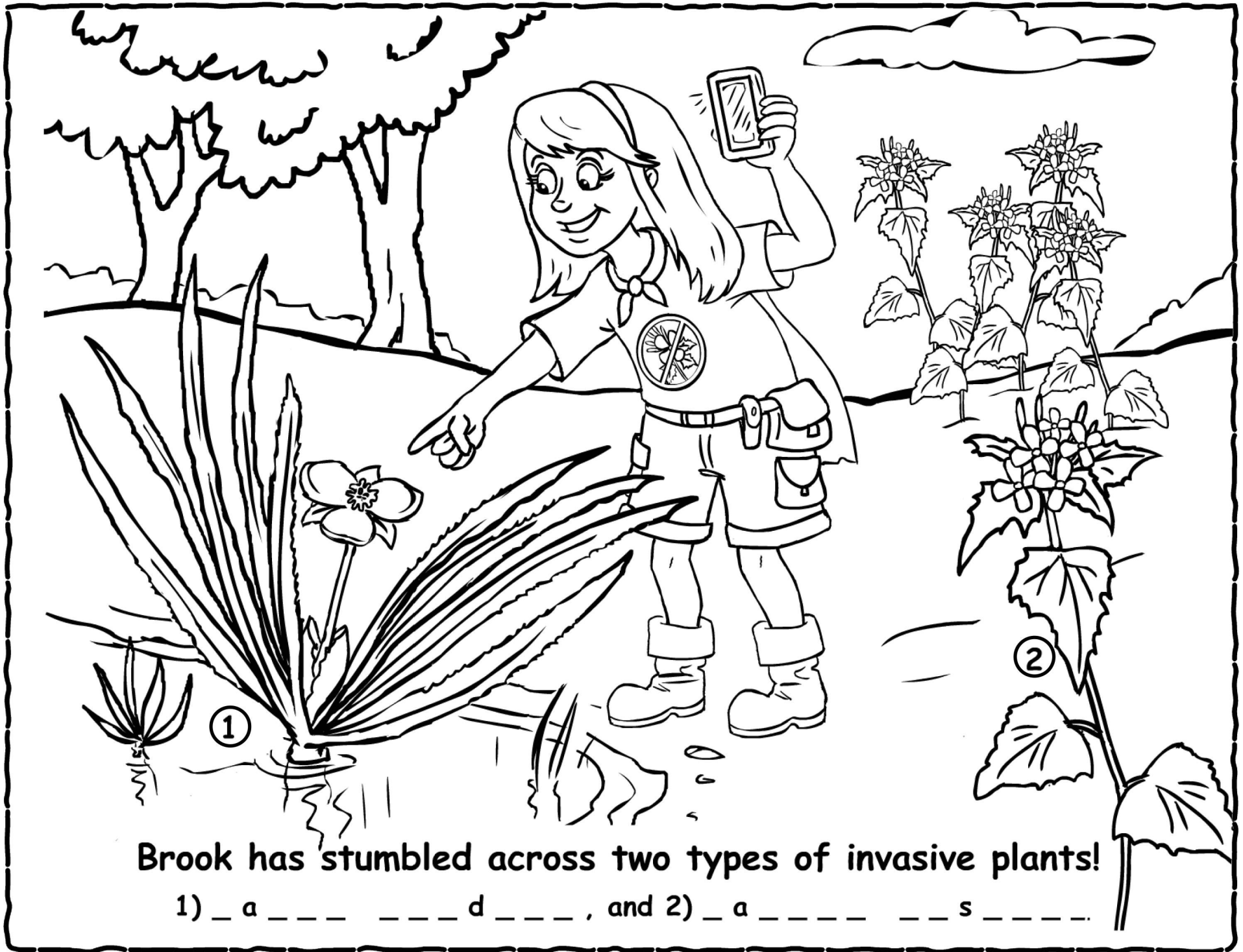


**Find the list of words in the puzzle and circle them!**  
**Remember they could be in any direction even backwards!**

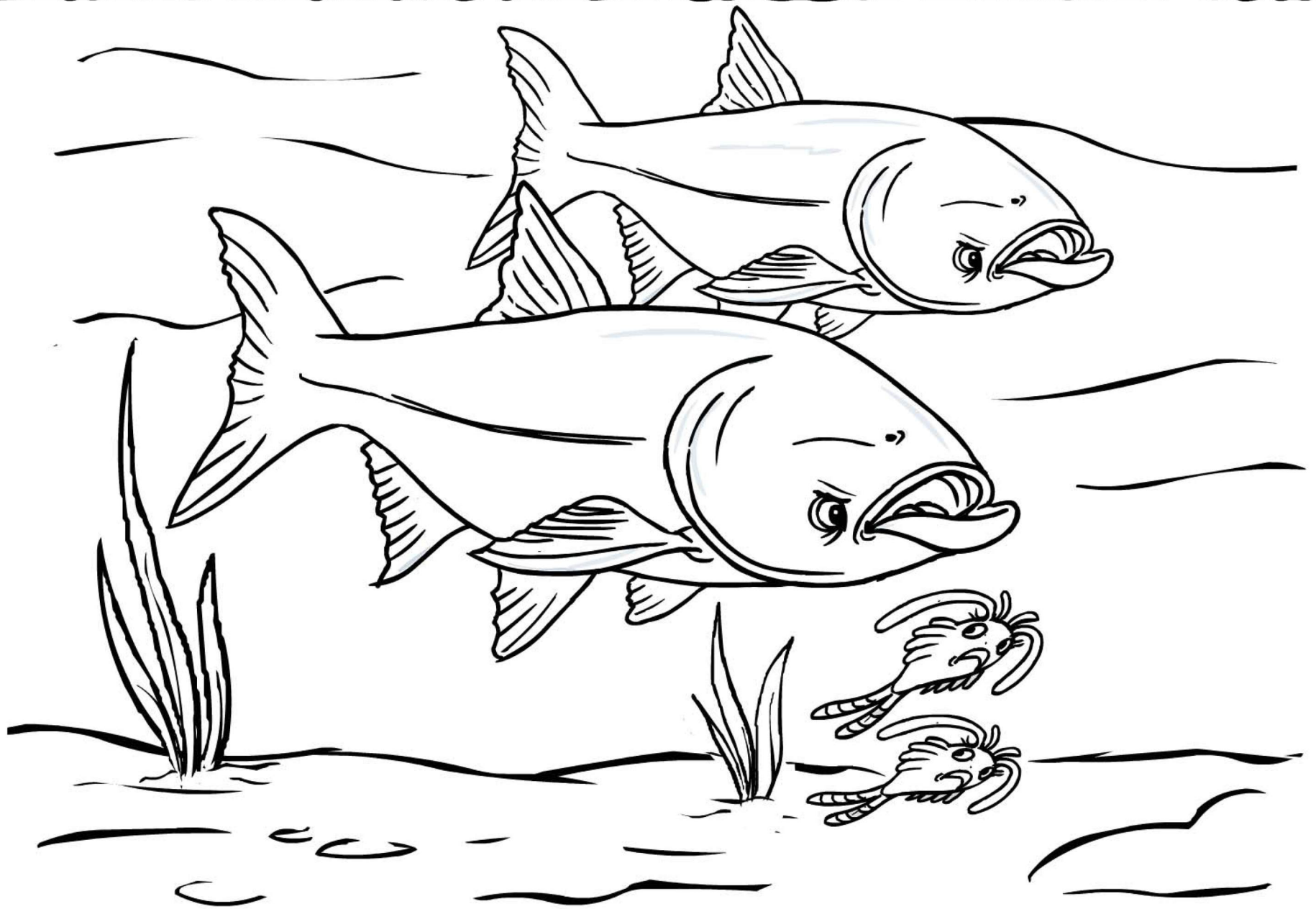




A tree originally from Europe called the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, shades out our own native plants and trees.



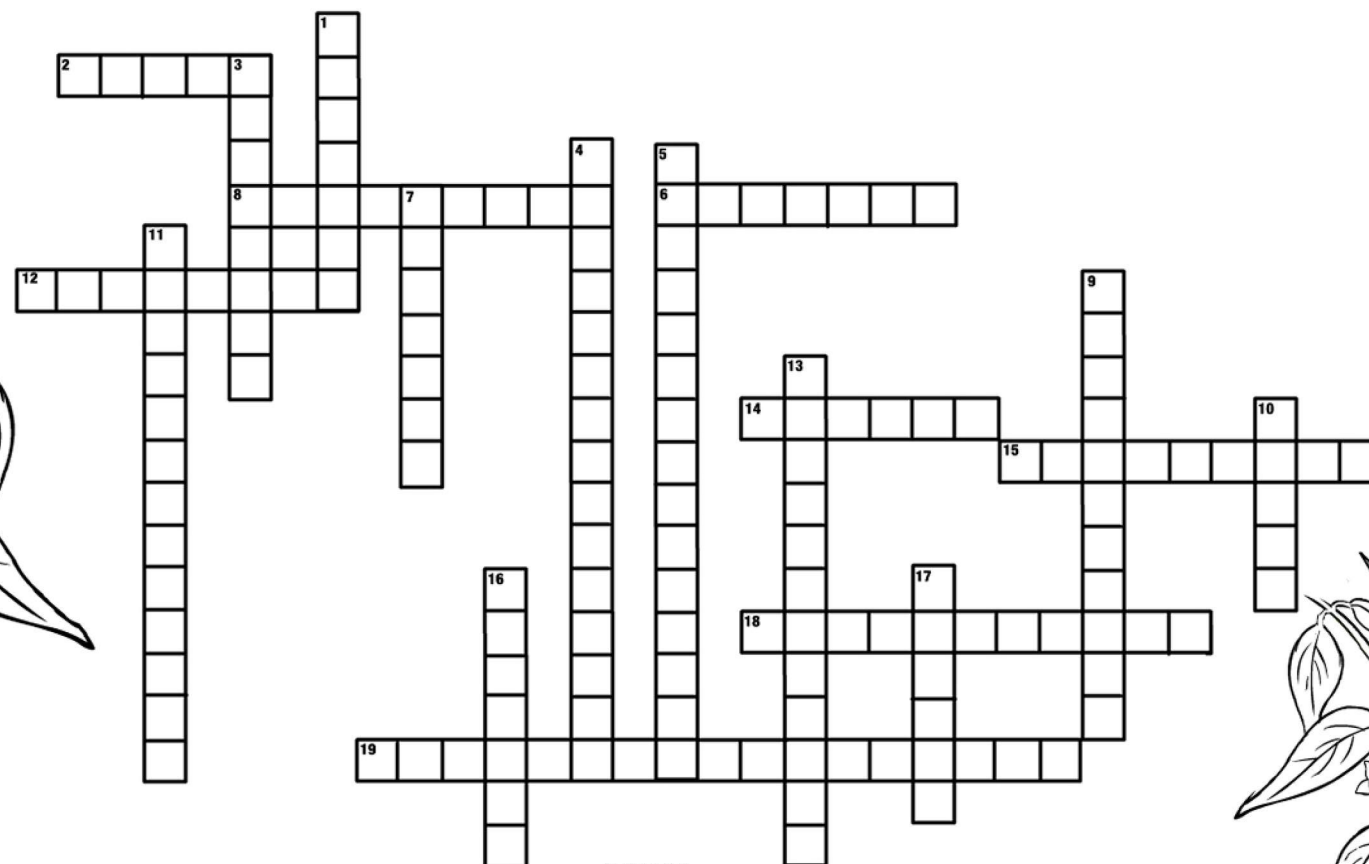




Some of these invasive fish named \_\_\_\_\_  
eat microscopic animals named \_\_\_\_\_.

# Invader Raider Crossword Puzzle!

Read the hints and figure out the words! Use a pencil, just in case!



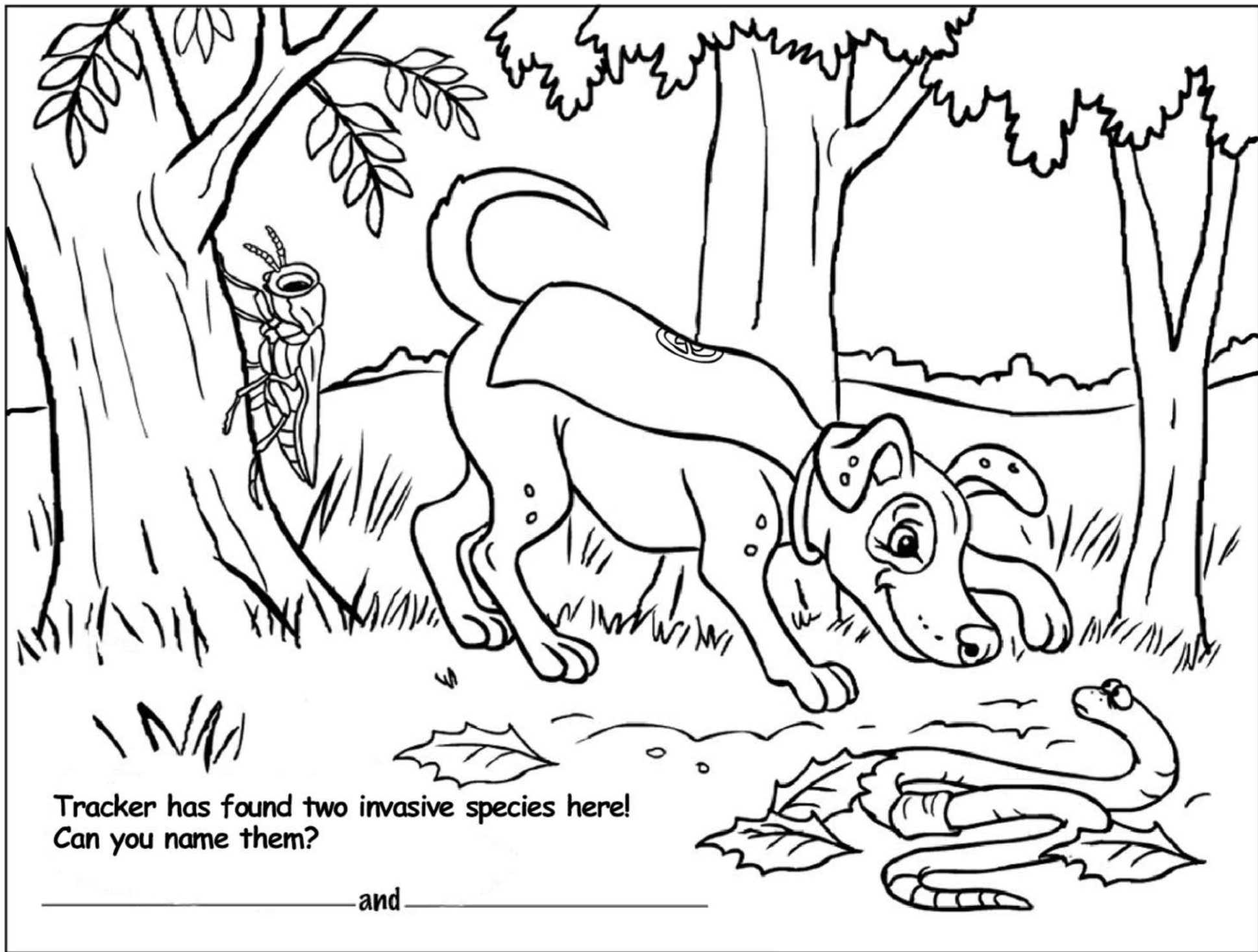
ACROSS

- 2 Where aquatic animals live
- 6 The name of our Province
- 8 Eats Leaf Litter
- 12 Means 'not from here' & moving in!
- 14 Where we grow our flowers
- 15 An aggressive invasive fish that eats plankton
- 18 Sun hogging tree from Europe
- 19 Invasive plant with fluffy seeds

DOWN

- 1 A native tree attacked by Invasive Bug
- 3 The deepest of our Great Lakes
- 4 Invasive green bug
- 5 Thorny shrub with purple fruit
- 7 Invader Raiders guard the \_\_\_\_\_ of our native plants & animals.
- 9 Long River in the United States with Asian Carp
- 10 Good garden tree & the leaf is on the Canadian Flag
- 11 Invasive herb originating in Europe
- 13 Aquatic Plant with sharp-edged leaves
- 16 Where many trees grow and many animals live
- 17 Means 'from here'



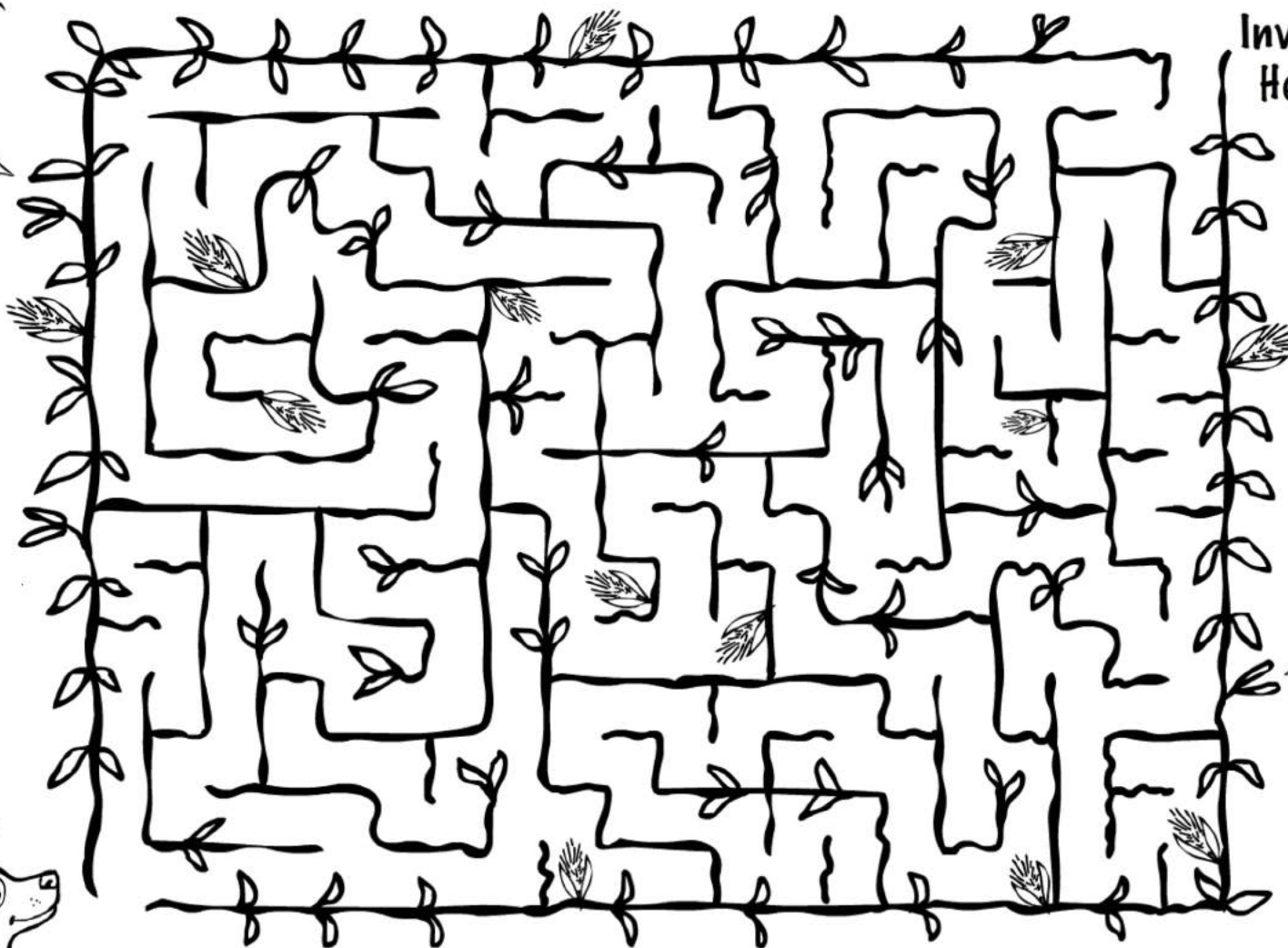


Tracker has found two invasive species here!  
Can you name them?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Help our Superhero get through the Dog Strangling Vine Maze!  
Please make sure she doesn't pick up any seeds along the way!

Invader Raiders  
Headquarters!

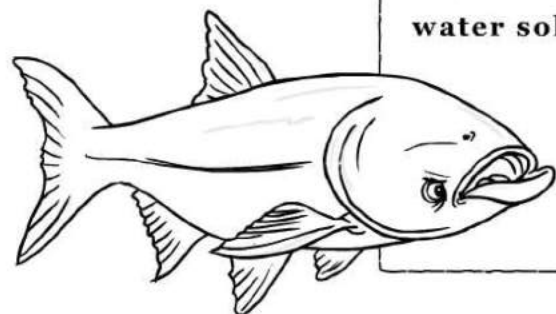


Start Here!

## DOG STRANGLING VINE







## Superhero Words To Find!

aquatic life  
 Asian carp  
 awareness  
 birds  
 Canada  
 earthworms  
 education  
 fluffy seeds  
 Great Lakes  
 Norway Maple  
 Ontario  
 water soldier

S	S	M	R	O	W	H	T	R	A	E	W
D	E	B	G	B	C	I	Y	K	C	A	B
E	K	Y	F	N	D	A	V	O	T	S	I
E	A	D	J	R	L	B	N	E	N	L	R
S	L	S	S	E	N	E	R	A	W	A	D
Y	T	P	N	T	K	S	B	E	D	Y	S
F	A	Q	I	V	O	W	O	O	J	A	T
F	E	F	I	L	C	I	T	A	U	Q	A
U	R	E	D	U	C	A	T	I	O	N	K
L	G	I	A	S	I	A	N	C	A	R	P
F	E	Q	K	B	O	N	T	A	R	I	O
R	N	O	R	W	A	Y	M	A	P	L	E

Find the list of words in the puzzle and circle them!  
 Remember they could be in any direction even backwards!

What invasive species has  
our Invader Raider  
discovered?

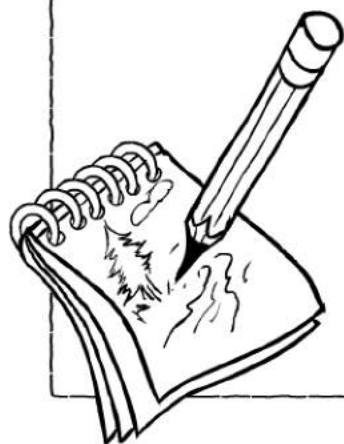
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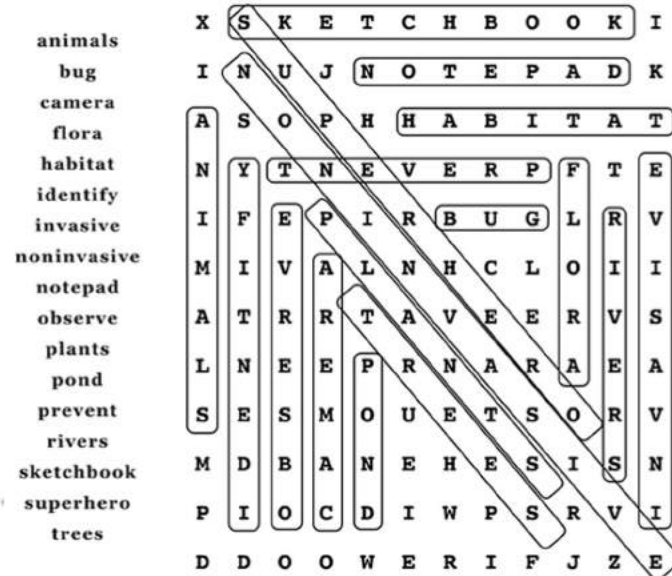
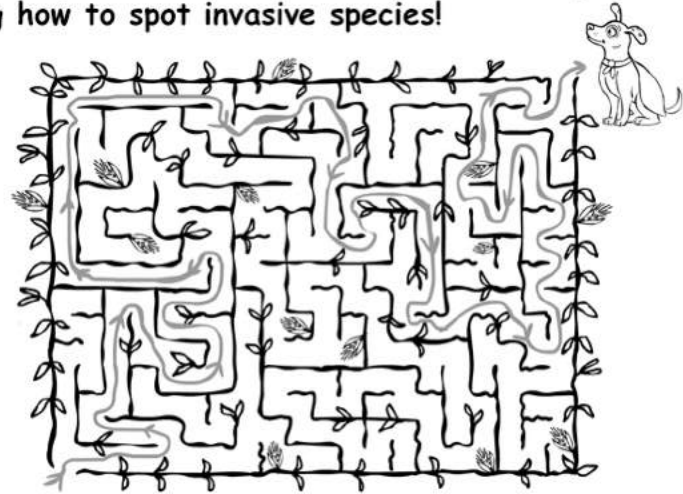
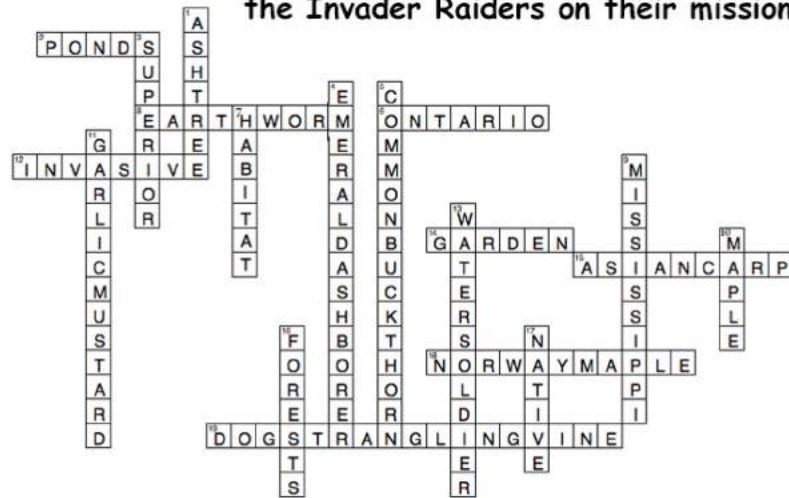
## Invader Raider Notes

You can use this page to make notes or sketches of some of the invasive species you've learned about in the Ontario Invasive Plant Council's Invader Raider Activity Book!

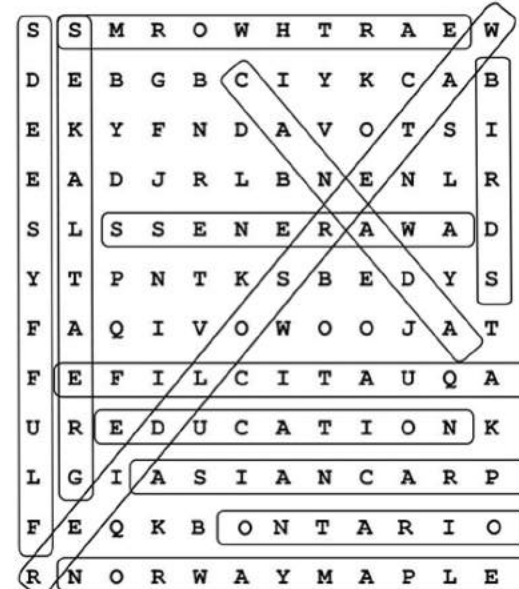


# INVADER RAIDER ANSWERS PAGE

By trying to solve the games and questions, you are now a Superhero too! Please continue to help the Invader Raiders on their mission by learning how to spot invasive species!



aquatic life  
Asian carp  
awareness  
birds  
Canada  
earthworms  
education  
fluffy seeds  
Great Lakes  
Norway Maple  
Ontario  
water soldier



## Colouring Page Answers:

An invasive tree from Europe is the "Norway Maple"  
Brook found two invasive plants.. "Water Soldier" and "Garlic Mustard"  
An invasive fish called "Asian Carp" can eat "Plankton"  
Tracker found two invasive species..an "Emerald Ash Borer" and an "Earthworm"  
A bird eats the fruit and spreads the seeds of an invasive shrub called "Common Buckthorn"





# Invasive Species Checklist *continued!*

## Earthworm



**What is it?** Earthworms.

- **Where did it come from?** Europe and could have been brought here in soils from garden plants.
- **Cool facts:** Earthworms range from a few millimeters to 3 feet long, but are usually just a few inches long.
- **Where is it found?** Earthworms are found in soil throughout Ontario.
- **What does it do?** They eat the leaves that have fallen on the forest floor taking away the nutrients that are needed by plants and trees.
- **How can I be an Invader Raider?** Always garden with non-invasive plants and species!

## Garlic Mustard



**What is it?** Garlic Mustard is an invasive plant.

- **Where did it come from?** It came from Europe as an herb.
- **Cool facts:** Garlic Mustard has white flowers and the young leaves smell like garlic when they are crushed.
- **Where is it found?** Across Ontario, in forests and yards, along trails and roadsides.
- **What does it do?** Spreads fast by seed and out-competes native wildflowers like Trout Lily and Trillium.
- **How can I be an Invader Raider?** Always garden with non-invasive plants!

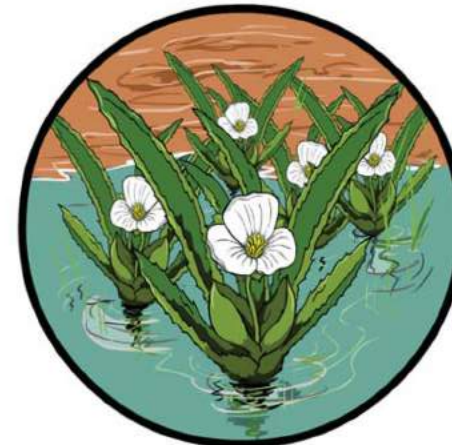
## Dog Strangling Vine



**What is it?** Dog-strangling Vine (DSV) is an invasive plant.

- **Where did it come from?** Eastern Europe, brought here as a garden plant or an accidental escapee.
- **Cool facts:** It's a climbing vine with fluffy white seeds that can travel by floating in the wind.
- **Where is it found?** Throughout Southern Ontario. It likes open sunny areas, but will grow in somewhat shady spots too.
- **What does it do?** It out-competes native species for sun, space and nutrients.
- **How can I be an Invader Raider?** Small pieces of this plant can sprout and start up a new plant, so if you wander through a patch of DSV, clean your shoes, equipment and your dog!

## Water Soldier



**What is it?** Water Soldier is a beautiful, but invasive, water garden plant.

- **Where did it come from?** Europe and Northwest Asia, brought here as a water garden plant.
- **Cool facts:** It looks like an aloe vera plant but has sharp jagged leaf edges.
- **Where is it found?** Right now there is only one place in Ontario where it is found: the Trent Severn Waterway.
- **What does it do?** It grows in thick mats, crowding out native plants making it hard for them to grow. It can also cut swimmers and get caught in boat motors.
- **How can I be an Invader Raider?** Always use non-invasive plants in your water gardens like Yellow Pond Lily. When you are finished with a plant, do not throw it in the waterways! Always put it in the garbage!

***Help the Invader Raiders! Spread the word! Tell your parents and friends about these harmful species!***





# INVADER RAIDERS' INVASIVE SPECIES CHECKLIST!



Emerald Ash Borer



Earthworm



Asian Carp



Norway Maple



Water Soldier



Dog Strangling Vine



Garlic Mustard



Common Buckthorn

ONTARIO INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL

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