

Exotic Plant Fair *Handout*

Students research exotic plants and create displays to persuade others their plant is the worst of all.

SAMPLE RESEARCH GUIDE

A watershed (also called a drainage basin) is an area on the land surface from which water flows, or has the potential to flow, into a stream or lake. Watersheds are naturally separated from adjacent basins by topographic divides. Therefore, watersheds can cross political boundaries such as county lines. For instance, some of the water from Hillsborough County flows into Pinellas County. In this lesson we will be examining one lake in Hillsborough County.

INSTRUCTIONS: Use the Hillsborough Water Atlas (www.hillsborough.wateratlas.org) to research and find the information below. To get to the information about plants go www.hillsborough.wateratlas.org > click on the "The Atlas" > choose the '**Thonotosassa, Lake**' from the Lakes drop down menu. Click on the "Ecology" tab > click on the link for "List of Plant Species". Select one plant and answer the following questions.

1. Common Name:
2. Scientific Name:
3. Write a description of the plant.
4. What is the plant's country of origin and native habitat?
5. In what type of habitat does the plant thrive in Florida?
6. What specific adaptations help this plant?

Name:

Date:

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7. What type of damage is the plant doing to native plants and animals?

8. Is anything being done to stop this plant? Does the remedy have side effects?

9. Draw a detailed picture of the plant.

Name:

Date:

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SAMPLE EXOTIC PLANT FAIR EXIT SURVEY

1. Male ____ Female ____

2. What is your current grade level? _____

3. What made you vote as you did? What is the most important reason? (Mark 1 for the most important, 2 for the next, and 3 for the next.)

_____ The pictures

_____ The colors used

_____ Real plants to see

_____ The way the whole thing looked

_____ The people at the table convinced me

_____ I learned that this is a bad plant.

_____ Something else

4. Suppose you had an aquarium complete with fish and plants and for some reason the fish all died. You didn't want to have an aquarium any more because you were moving. Your friend told you to throw the aquarium plants into a nearby lake to feed the fish.

Would you do it? _____ Why?

Copy this survey, or make your own!

Name:

Date: