

Riddles

Can You Figure Them Out?

1. A Brazilian beauty I was brought in as a decorative plant.
Raccoons and birds spread my seeds, not the tiny-tiny Ant.
Eventually the native trees die because they are unable to survive.
A chemical from my leaves stops their growth, allowing me to thrive.
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2. Hey mate! I am from down under,
The water from the Everglades is what I plunder.
I am known as the true terror of the 'glades,
An aggressive invader; many wish we were old maids.
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3. I am known to flower all year long,
Wind dispersed seeds make my survival chances strong.
My roots grow through the sand where you play
Making it hard for sea turtles to lay.
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4. I grow quickly and produce a mass of tangled vines,
Naturally blocking out the sun, and I don't produce wine.
I am very dangerous for hardwood trees
Changing nutrient cycles quick as you please.
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5. I love the salt and tolerate the drought,
My fruit floats and scatters about.
From shoreline to shoreline I have dense strands
The native plants wish I had stayed in my native lands.
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6. I lay a mat that can be 4 feet deep,
Blocking the way for animals that creep
I cover entire forests of cypress trees,
Allowing fires to burn higher than their knees.

7. I am not a bird of the cloth, but I am a monk
Some people think I'm a little fat feathered hunk.
My impact on native birds, is I compete for their food,
Around fruit trees they say my actions are quite rude.

8. I love to mimic the way other birds sing and talk.
I transfer malaria, causing other birds to squawk.
If you build a nest it will soon become my home.
As an omnivore for food I have freedom to roam.

9. We transfer the mites that love to bite,
With the native birds we love to fight.
With our large flocks we cause much harm
To trees, houses and Old McDonald's farm.

10. From Southeast Asia I'm a popular pet.
I really do like it here in Florida where it is humid and wet.
Eating endangered species are a part of what I will prey,
Prompting park officials to not invite me to stay.

11. Central and South America is where I got my start,
Florida is now where I can run and dart.
My diet consists of crops, as well as rare and endangered plants,
Just like sunbathers you will never see me wearing pants.

12. This lizard is found all around houses,
He migrated from Cuba by the dozens.
They are known for decreasing the native habitat
Where their green cousin is found at.

13. My impact in Florida is really quite a mystery.
They think I travel around via the palm tree.
From Southeast Asia I ventured here,
Creating a lot of worry and fear.

14. From out of Africa across the big blue,
I out compete other fish, perhaps one you knew.
Tolerant of the cold, spreading through the state;
No known enemies, taking away places others choose to mate.

15. Look and you will find me in a shallow slough
Eating native mosquito fish that don't have a clue.
We can tolerate waters that are low in oxygen,
And eat those that control the mosquito population.

16. I'm not as popular as the award from Hollywood.
I came from South American and spread as far as I could.
I love canals and water conservation land
And I am loved by every fisherman.

17. We have long mustache whiskers, and a sharp dorsal fin,
I walk on land if I don't like the water I'm in.
They say we kill largemouth bass just for fun
Dominating pools of water that shrink under the heat rays of the Florida sun.

18. Known to alter community structure,
They may have lived during the Mayan culture.
Aggressive and mean it takes over the places
Where native fishes like to make kissy faces.

19. Looking like a long hot dog with a tail,
This thing will scare you without fail.
In the Asian markets it's considered quite a dish,
Its voracious appetite brings a decline in native fish.

20. This evil insect came from Mexico.
To native bromeliads it's a dangerous foe.
It's young drill holes in bromeliad leaves,
Becoming one of the air plant's pet peeves.

21. Disturb their mounds and you are sure to get a venomous bite.
Invertebrates and small birds satisfy their appetite.
Very adaptable they can survive droughts and flood,
This insect is the color of blood.

22. This species of frog comes from the West Indies,
Feeding on native green tree frog species.
Reducing native frogs through hungry eating,
Skin secretions stop birds from feasting.

23. Walking on the ground with its armored shell,
This little mammal burrows holes in which to dwell.
Carrying dangerous diseases like encephalitis and leprosy,
Young amphibians and reptiles are what their palate fancies.

24. From Africa I travelled to Grassy Key
And without predators I can run free.
A 9-pound danger to native woodrats
Nothing can stop me, not even cats.

25. I have a long snout and my tail is hairy
The diseases I spread are kinda scary
I uproot plants and leave deer-like tracks
In Arkansas I'm known as a razorback

26. We got our start being dumped in the wild.
Native animals have us eating in style.
We love to feast on native birds and reptiles,
Doing our best hunting when the sun rests for a while.

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Answer Key

1. Brazilian Pepper
2. Melaleuca
3. Australian Pine
4. Latherleaf
5. Seaside Mahoe
6. Lygodium
7. Monk Parakeet
8. Myna Birds
9. European Starling
10. Burmese Python
11. Green Iguana
12. Cuban Anole
13. Indo-Pacific Gecko
14. Blue Tilapia
15. Pike Killifish
16. Oscar
17. Walking Catfish
18. Mayan Cichlid
19. Asian Swamp Eel
20. Bromeliad Weevil
21. Fire Ants
22. Cuban Tree Frog
23. Nine-Banded Armadillo
24. Gambian Pouch Rat
25. Feral Pig
26. Feral Cats and Dogs