



Junior Ranger Garden Explorer Activity Book

Ages 7 and up



Explore



Learn



Protect

This Book Belongs to: _____

How to Become a Garden Explorer



Voyageurs National Park is a special place and needs to be cared for and protected so people can enjoy it today and in the future. As a Garden Explorer, you can help.

If You Do This...

- Stay on the trail
- Leave plants where they are
- Leave rock cairns alone
- Pick up trash
- Don't bother the animals

Then This Happens...

- Plants don't get stepped on and die
- Flowers are left for others to enjoy
- People can find the path
- Garden stays beautiful
- They will build a home in the garden

To become a Garden Explorer:

1. Explore the Ojibwe Ethno-botanical Garden
2. Complete 6 or more activities in this book by reading the directions next to the  on each page.
3. Bring the completed book to a park ranger for review and receive your badge.



Use the secret code below to discover what kinds of plants are in the Ojibwe Ethno-botanical Garden.

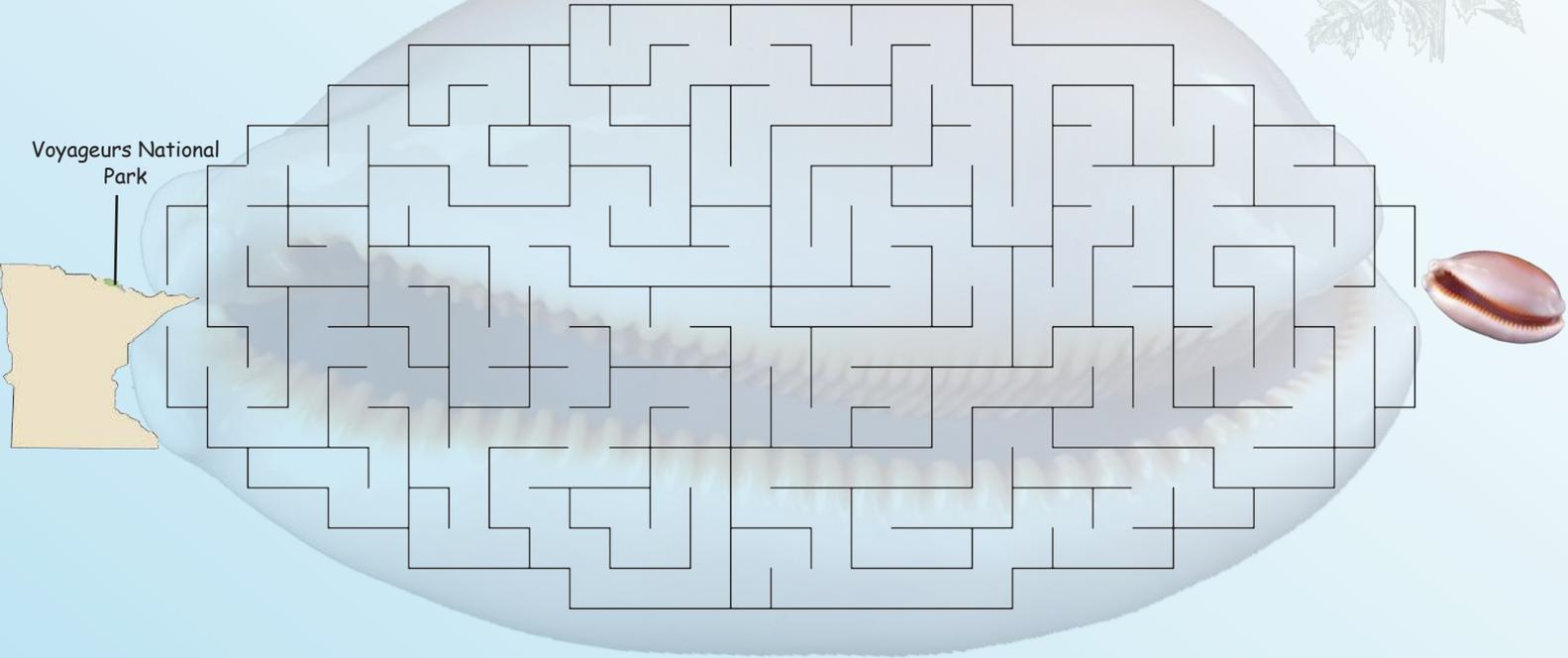
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	L	N	O	P	R	S	T	U	W
																		



Arrival of the Ojibwe

 The Ojibwe Indians traveled to Minnesota more than 250 years ago. Ojibwe elders tell the story of how a Megis Shell appeared in the sky and led their people here. Once the Ojibwe arrived they lived in many different areas of Minnesota including here - Voyageurs National Park.

 Using the , help guide the Ojibwe Indians to their home in Northern Minnesota.



 Use your finger to trace the routes the Ojibwe traveled from New Brunswick to Minnesota. *Sometimes they branched off and traveled different paths.



Shopping for Plants

 Today people go to stores to buy food, medicine, and supplies but when the Ojibwe Indians lived here there were no stores. The Ojibwe searched the land and water for their food and supplies. Imagine shopping in your backyard for your breakfast.



Take a walk on the garden path and use the items you need below.



to “shop” for

Shopping List

The Ojibwe Indians used this plant to:

What is the plant's name?

What product do you use from a store?

Keep Mosquitos Away

White Spruce

Bug Spray

Cure a Stomach Ache

Cure a Bad Cough

Dye Clothing

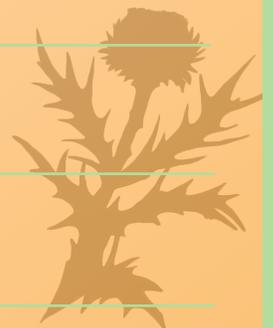
Tie Something Together

Eat

Heal a Cut

Make a Basket

Floss Teeth



Do NOT eat plants or use them for medicine.

A Diverse Landscape



Voyageurs National Park is home to more than 800 different kinds of plants. What you see around you is a good example of **biodiversity**. This word comes from the words bio - meaning “life” and diverse - meaning “many different kinds”. As you explore the garden, take a look at all the different kinds of plant life growing here.



Once you have walked the garden path, find your favorite plant and draw it below on the birch bark paper. Answer the following questions.

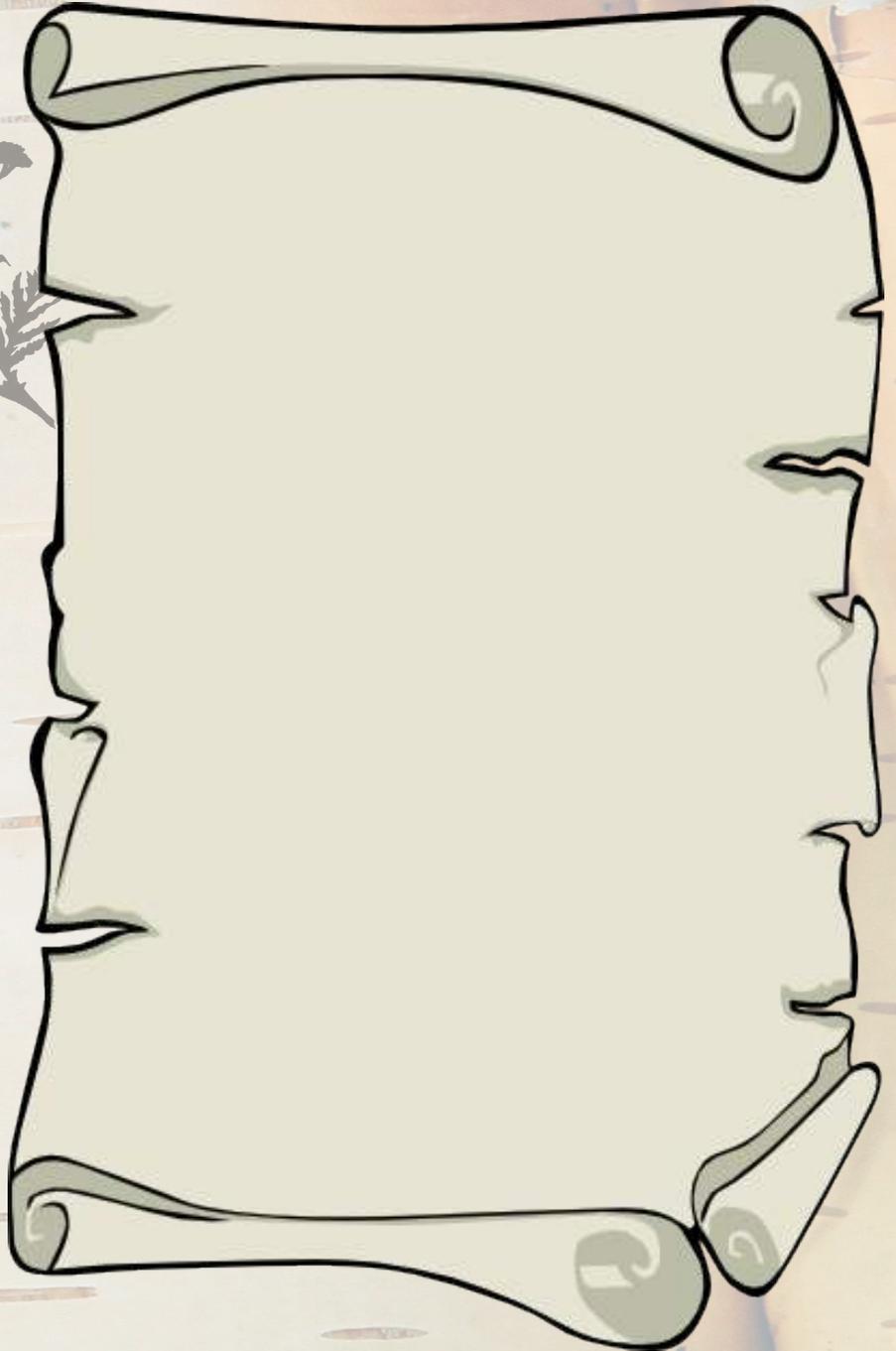
What is the name of your plant?

Why is it your favorite?

Did the Ojibwe have a special use for this plant? If so, what was it?

Use one of your senses (see, hear, touch, or smell) to describe the plant.

Which animal might use this plant and what would they use it for?



The Ojibwe Indians have many uses for the paper birch tree. It has the name “paper” birch because the bark peels into thin, papery pieces.

What do you see in the garden made from birch bark? _____

Whose Home



Plant biodiversity is important for all living things, including wildlife. Different animals use plants for different reasons including food and shelter. The garden is home to many animals.

Match the animal to what it is looking for in the garden by following the directions below.

The  is searching for _____. Draw a around it.

The  is looking for _____. Draw a around it.

The  is searching for _____. Draw a across it.

The  is looking for _____. Draw an X across it.

The  is searching for _____. Draw a around it.

The  is hunting for _____. Draw a around it.



is Here?

 As you walk through the garden, look around for animals. Who do you see living in the garden? Are these animals eating, building a home, or doing something else? Write about what you see.



Ranger, Remove Those Exotics!



Most types of plants in Voyageurs are native, meaning they have always grown here. They are important because they provide food and shelter to animals. Exotic, or non-native, plants came here from another part of the world. While not all exotic plants are harmful, many act like bullies to other plants, animals, and even humans and can take over a forest or field!



The exotic plants below have been sneaking up on you in this book. Garden Explorers can help protect the park by learning how to spot exotic plants. Go back through the pages to find each plant's shadow. Write down the page number you found it on so the ranger knows which exotics to remove.

REMOVE!



Dandelion
Takes over yards and gardens.
page: _____

REMOVE!



Purple loosestrife
Takes over marshes and wetlands.
page: _____

REMOVE!



Common Tansy
Bullies other flowers growing near it.
page: _____

REMOVE!



Canada Thistle
Its sharp leaves and stem hurt animals and people.
page: _____

REMOVE!



Reed Canary Grass
Grows very tall and bullies other kinds of grasses.
page: _____

REMOVE!



Wild Parsnip
A poisonous plant.
page: _____

If exotic plants don't get removed from Voyageurs, how would they affect plant biodiversity in this national park? (Hint-return to page 5) _____



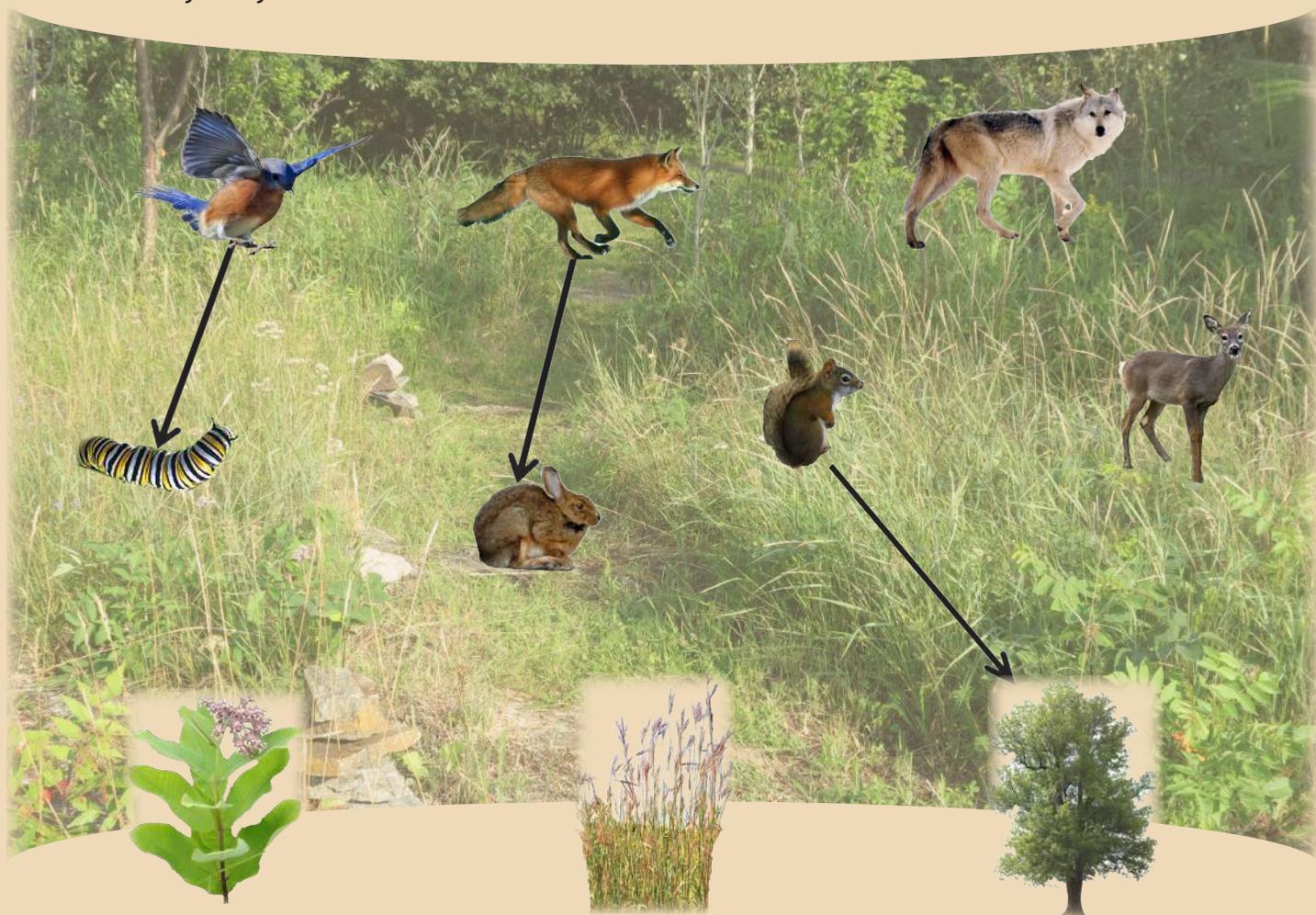
Wild Parsnip can cause large, painful blisters if you touch it!
If you see this plant in the park, please tell a Park Ranger so they can remove it.

A Chain Reaction

 Many animals eat plants for food. Plants are called producers because they make food from sunlight. Animals who eat plants are called herbivores. Herbivores are eaten by bigger animals called carnivores or “meat eaters”. Together producers, herbivores, and carnivores create a food chain.

 The diagram below shows healthy food chains made up of native plants and animals. Follow the steps below to learn how exotic species can affect food chains.

1. Finish drawing the arrows to connect carnivores to the herbivores they eat. Then draw arrows to connect herbivores to the producers they eat.
2. If the Milkweed flower was replaced with exotic Common Tansey,  circle the animals who would be affected.
3. The Emerald Ash Borer is an exotic green beetle that destroys ash trees.  Draw an X across the animals who would not have food if the Green Ash tree was destroyed by the Emerald Ash Borer.



Milkweed flower

Big Bluestem grass

Green Ash tree

 Voyageurs National Park protects all native plants and animals that live in the park. Removing exotic plants from the park helps native plants grow. Animals who need these plants for food and shelter will continue to live in the park.

A Walk Through The Garden

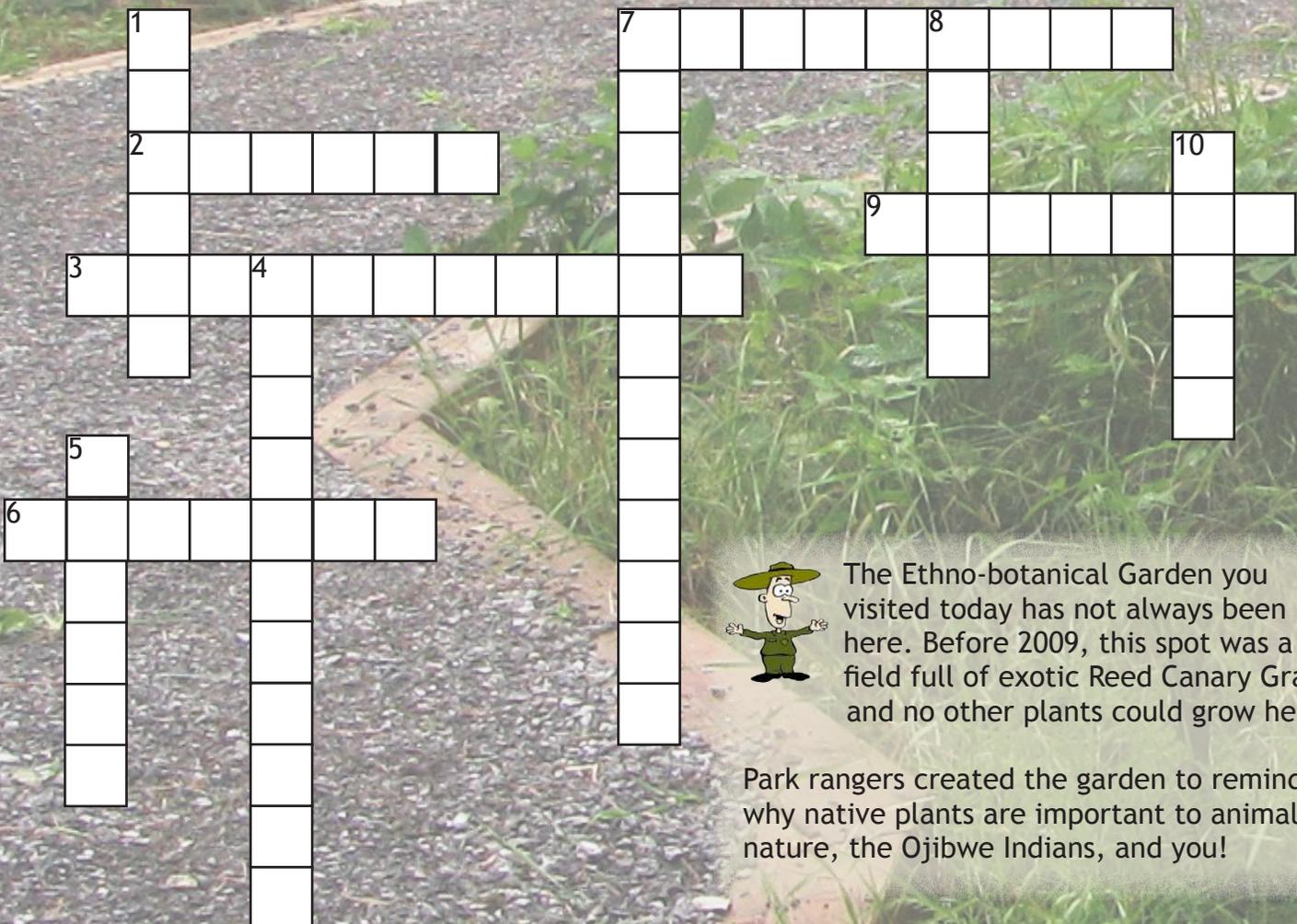
 Use the clues below to solve the crossword puzzle. If you need a hint, use the page numbers.

Down:

1. _____ plants should be removed from Voyageurs National Park. (page 8)
4. Strawberry roots can be used for _____. (page 4)
5. _____ plants should be protected. (page 8)
7. This word means “many different kinds of life”. _____ (page 5)
8. Animals will live in the garden if people don’t _____ them. (page 2)
10. The _____ shell guided the indians to Minnesota. (page 3)

Across:

2. The _____ Indians were the first group of people to live here. (page 3)
3. The _____ plant is poisonous to animals and humans. (page 8)
6. The Indians would have used the aspen tree to heal a cut instead of a _____. (page 4)
7. Draw a picture on the _____ paper. (page 5)
9. The garden provides food and _____ for wildlife. (page 6)



The crossword puzzle grid consists of white squares for letters and empty spaces. The numbered starting points are:

- 1: Down, top-left corner.
- 2: Across, second row, second column.
- 3: Across, third row, first column.
- 4: Across, third row, fourth column.
- 5: Down, fourth row, first column.
- 6: Across, fifth row, first column.
- 7: Across, seventh row, first column.
- 8: Across, seventh row, eighth column.
- 9: Across, eighth row, sixth column.
- 10: Down, eighth row, tenth column.



The Ethno-botanical Garden you visited today has not always been here. Before 2009, this spot was a field full of exotic Reed Canary Grass and no other plants could grow here.

Park rangers created the garden to remind us why native plants are important to animals, nature, the Ojibwe Indians, and you!



Congratulations!



As a Junior Ranger Garden Explorer,

I, _____,

promise to appreciate and protect the
native plants in Voyageurs National Park and
in my own backyard.

Garden Explorer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Park Ranger Signature: _____ Date: _____

Congratulations! You are almost a Junior Ranger Garden Explorer. Once you have completed your activities, present this booklet to the person behind the desk at a visitor center or mail it to:

**Junior Ranger Program
Voyageurs National Park
360 Hwy 11 East
International Falls, MN 56649**

Photo and Graphic Design Credits:

- Cover:** Ojibwe photo courtesy of: Minnesota Historical Society
- Page 2:** Graphics courtesy of: Allison Barnes; animal photos courtesy of: the Animal Diversity Website; plant silhouette courtesy of: Julianne Leekie of the Invasive Species Council of British Columbia.
- Page 3:** Megis shell photo courtesy of: Philippa Rose Lucy Wilson.
- Page 4:** Thistle silhouette courtesy of: Julianne Leekie of the Invasive Species Council of British Columbia.
- Page 5:** Tansy silhouette courtesy of: Julianne Leekie of the Invasive Species Council of British Columbia.
- Pages 6&7:** Layout design and graphics courtesy of: Allison Barnes; Dandelion silhouette courtesy of: Sabine Deviche.
- Page 8:** Graphics courtesy of: Julianne Leekie of the Invasive Species Council of British Columbia and Sabine Deviche.
- Page 9:** Animal photos courtesy of: the Animal Diversity Website.
- Page 11:** Photo courtesy of: Lisa Maass

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