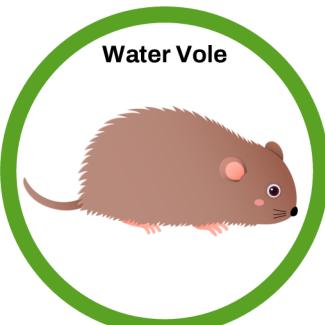


INNS Spotter

‘INNS’ stands for ‘Invasive Non-Native Species’.

This is the term given to living things that can cause harm to native species.

The **American Mink**, from North America, was brought to the UK to be bred in fur farms, where their fur was stripped for use in clothing. During the 20th century, they either escaped or were freed by animal rights activists into the wild. This semi-aquatic predator is often mistaken for our native otter due to its deep brown fur; however, it is slightly smaller and slimmer than an otter, meaning it can enter the burrows (and kill) our native water voles with ease. Water voles are currently endangered and are at risk of extinction in the UK.



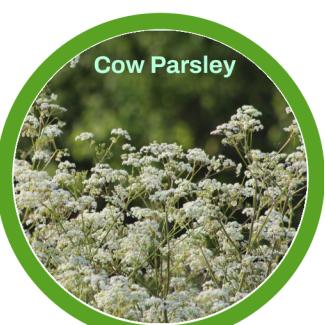
Signal Crayfish originate in North America and get their name from the bright-red underside of their claws. They were brought over to the UK in the 1970s to be eaten in restaurants! As well as being a ferocious predator of small fish, they carry a disease that kills the native ‘White-clawed crayfish’. Signals grow faster and are more aggressive than their white-clawed counterparts. Sadly, White-clawed Crayfish are now endangered.



Himalayan Balsam is an invasive flowering plant, that is widespread over the Wear catchment. Each plant can contain up to 2000 seeds, that grow in exploding seed pods, which can fire up to 7 metres! Due to its alarming rate of reproduction, balsam is outcompeting native UK wildflowers - like Marsh Marigold (pictured right) - and reducing biodiversity.



Giant Hogweed is a very tall flowering plant, related to our native Cow Parsley (pictured right). It was introduced by the Victorians, from Asia, in the 19th century, as a decorative flower. Unlike Cow parsley, Giant Hogweed can be dangerous. If you spot some, DON’T TOUCH IT as it can cause painful burns to humans and pets alike, that can take up to 6 years to heal.

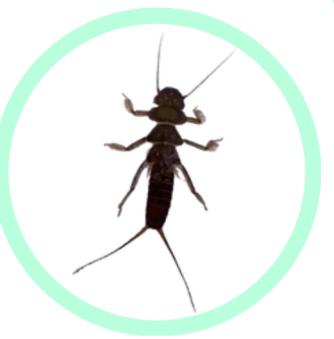


Did you know: Giant hogweed can grow up to 10 metres high!

Which species cause harm to our environment?

Circle the the invasive non-native species for each group below.

Creatures



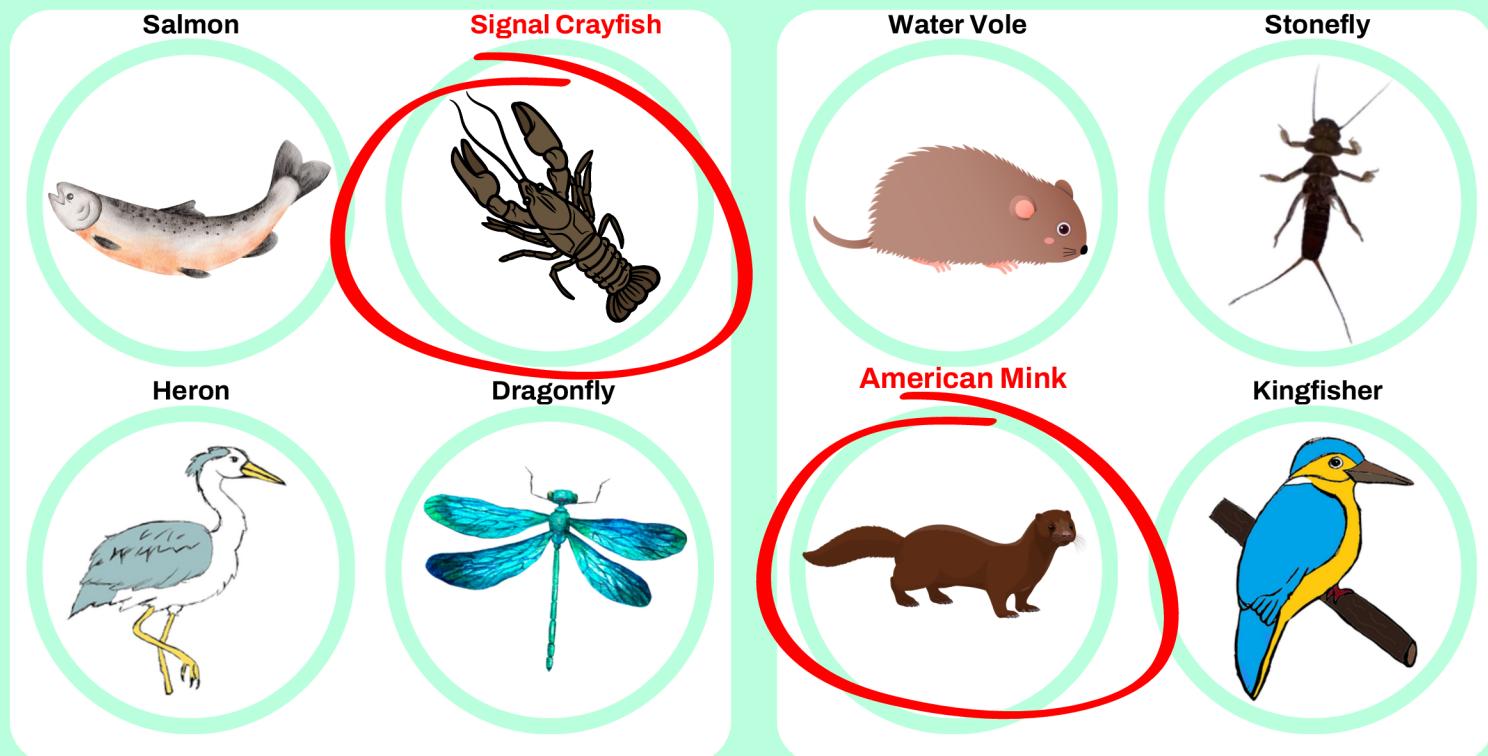
Flora



Which species cause harm to our environment?

ANSWERS

Creatures



Flora

