Native and Invasive Species

Native Species

- What does Native mean?
  - If you are native to an area, what does that mean?
- Native species live, have evolved, and adapted to a place.

Non-Native Species

- These organisms are not native to an area
- What might be some problems that happen if an organism that is not native is introduced to a new place?
Non-Native Species

- Other names are invasive, exotic, alien species
- Invasive species are non-native species that are not good for an ecosystem
- They harm or destroy the native species in the area

Exotic and Invasive Species

- They can be bad because they lack natural predators or things that would limit population growth
- They outcompete native species
- Not part of native food webs

Asian Carp

- Several species of carp native to Asia were introduced to southern United States and have slowly migrated up Mississippi River
- They outcompete native fish for food
- They can grow up to 4 ft long and weigh 100 lbs
- They are very adaptable to cold water environments like the Great Lakes
Buckthorn

- Invasive plant in United States
- Brought over from Europe in 1800’s as popular hedging material
- Outcompetes native plants for nutrients, space, and light
- Grows leaves early and retains them late to create dense shade to help it outcompete
- Lacks natural controls like insects or diseases that would curb growth