Science 14

Unit D: Matter and energy in the environment

Species people introduce and land people change

Purple flowers along a wetland edge

- Purple loosestrife can spread through a western Canadian wetland and crowd other plants.
- The wetland's food web changes when the plant community changes.

Exotic species and land use

- An exotic species is one people brought into a region, such as purple loosestrife in a western wetland.
- Land use is the way people change a place, such as draining a wetland or farming it.

Key terms

exotic species

A species people brought into a region where it had been absent, such as purple loosestrife in western wetlands.

altered ecosystem

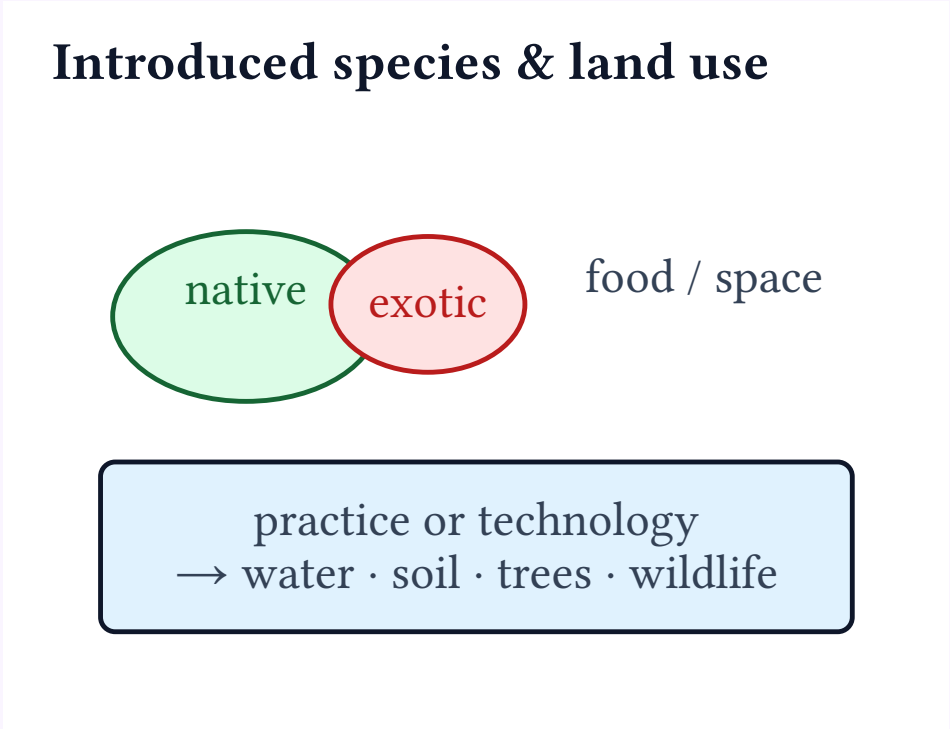
An ecosystem whose species, water or soil pathways changed after a technology or a land practice.

land use

The way people change a place, such as draining a wetland, logging, or farming.

Introduced species and land use

- An exotic species changes food or space for species already there.
- A land practice or a technology changes water, soil, trees or wildlife.



Zebra mussels

- They filter large amounts of plankton from Great Lakes water.
- Other animals then have less of that food.



A named ecosystem

- Name the species, the place, and the change in food or space.
- Purple loosestrife, English sparrows, and zebra mussels are the models.

One species, one place

- Choose purple loosestrife, English sparrows, or zebra mussels.
- Name the ecosystem and the change in food or space.

Introduced species report

- Say which ecosystem the new species changes, such as a wetland or the Great Lakes.
- Say what people needed, such as food or fuel, and what changed in the water, soil, or trees.

Image credits

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Zebra mussels dreissena polymorpha on native mussel, public domain