



## The Clues and Tools Needed By An Invasive Species Detective

J	R	C	C	L	A	T	D	Y	R	Z	A	E	T	X	S	C	I	H	K
F	D	D	J	R	I	R	R	E	T	Q	N	Z	C	E	E	I	W	C	Y
G	Z	O	E	I	V	C	R	A	R	U	L	E	R	U	R	K	G	K	Q
N	Q	M	N	L	Y	E	N	M	C	E	X	M	Y	W	U	Q	J	H	R
A	A	P	K	R	L	K	W	E	T	K	T	A	C	S	T	H	K	P	T
C	M	L	L	A	S	D	S	D	P	T	S	W	D	S	A	E	K	Q	W
D	T	S	E	B	X	F	K	K	O	E	V	E	D	I	E	A	O	E	A
M	N	Z	N	D	W	D	H	U	D	G	A	T	Z	D	F	R	O	Y	Q
F	X	U	E	Z	E	L	A	E	P	P	R	U	Y	M	Y	I	B	O	C
V	V	F	O	T	Z	B	B	T	Y	A	L	P	Y	A	J	N	E	A	B
V	F	J	Z	S	S	E	I	A	P	R	E	V	J	R	M	G	T	H	E
M	Y	M	Q	I	W	C	T	T	R	Z	F	W	M	D	T	E	O	H	H
B	A	Q	H	A	O	P	A	F	I	H	C	U	O	T	X	H	N	T	A
D	N	G	L	R	Z	F	T	S	Z	V	W	P	O	E	W	T	E	Y	V
G	W	U	N	S	O	K	E	Z	L	A	W	T	P	Q	A	N	Y	Q	I
N	K	L	M	I	Z	U	U	Q	H	Q	A	C	N	S	R	E	M	R	O
J	E	E	I	Y	F	G	C	O	L	O	R	S	T	E	K	N	C	F	R
T	L	C	B	P	D	I	Z	U	H	U	O	E	T	H	V	Z	L	T	A
L	B	O	O	K	S	X	E	A	O	M	V	N	K	B	F	K	W	V	B
S	A	H	Y	D	G	A	L	R	G	S	I	B	H	Y	B	B	U	W	U



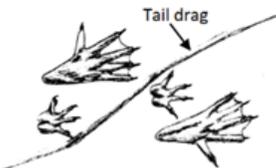
**Find the words below in the mixed letters above (Puzzle solution on page 3)**

- |          |          |           |       |        |
|----------|----------|-----------|-------|--------|
| Behavior | Features | Magnifier | Scat  | Sound  |
| Books    | Habitat  | Notebook  | Sight | Taste  |
| Camera   | Hearing  | Pencil    | Size  | Touch  |
| Color    | Internet | Ruler     | Smell | Tracks |

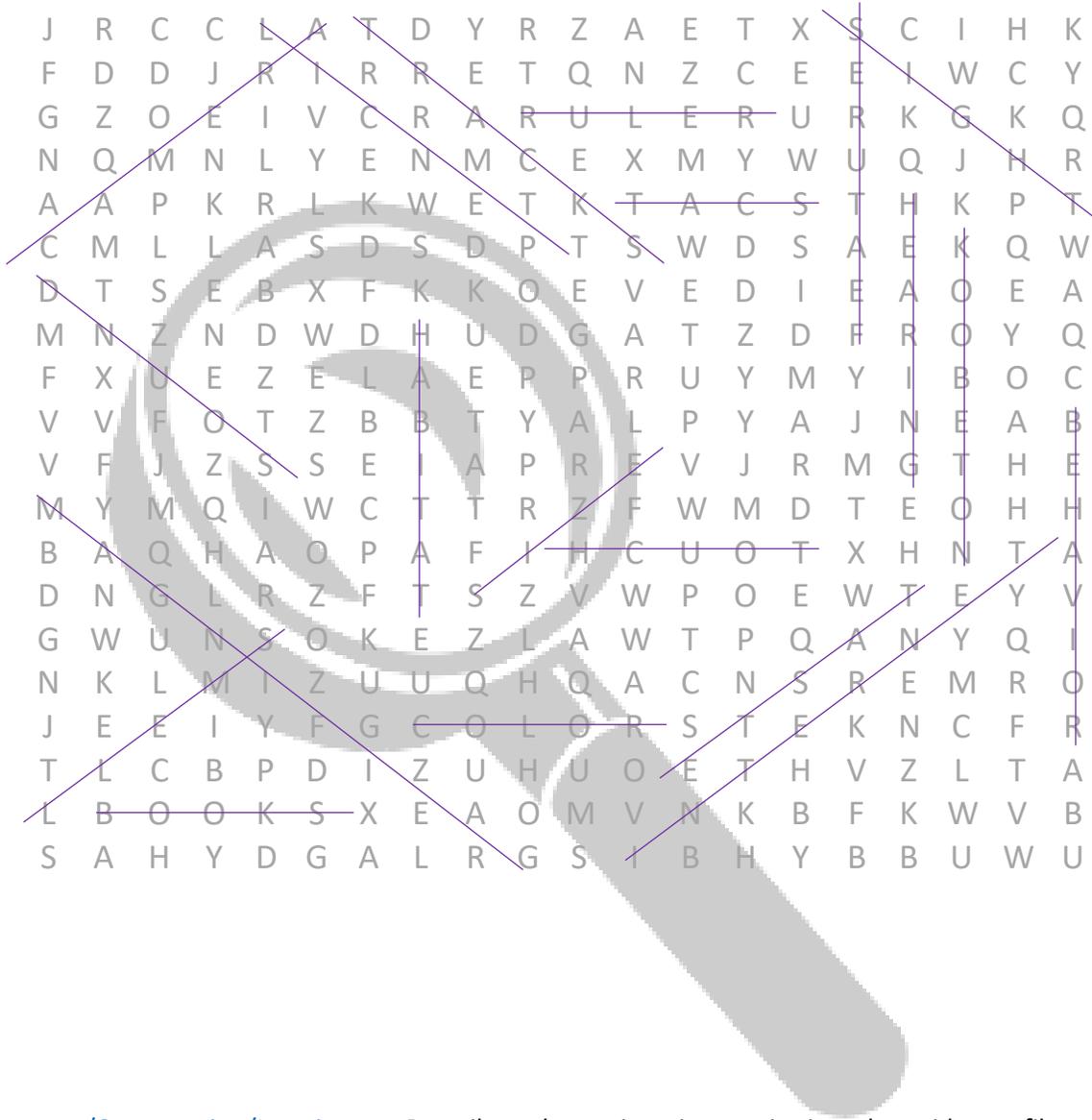
## What tools might we use to help us be an Invasive Species Detective?

Senses	Sight, Hearing, Smell, Taste and Touch provide clues about the plant/animal and its habitat.
Camera	Provides a visual record of what we are seeing.
Magnifier	A magnifying glass makes objects look larger making it easier to see small details.
Ruler	Helps determine the plant or animals' size.
Pencil & Notebook	To record your findings (clues).
Internet & Books	A wealth of information can be found on-line and in books *See next page for suggestions

## Clues to identify invasive species

Behavior	How an animal or plant acts		<p>Although these swans prefer shallow water habitats, they will move into deeper waters when shallow areas freeze over.</p> <p>CDFW photo by Cathie Vouchilas</p>
Color	Certain animals or plants have unique colors		<p>A mass of bright pink eggs on structures and plants above the water line indicate channeled apple snails</p> <p>Photo by Katasha Cornwell, Florida Department of Transportation</p>
Features	A physical characteristic of an animal or plant. Different features or combinations of features is how we tell different species apart when looking at them		<p>Bullfrogs have large vary noticeable eardrums behind their eyes</p> <p>Photo by Kerwin Russell, Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District</p>
Habitat	A particular place that a plant or animal lives		<p>Quagga and Zebra mussels are only found in freshwater ecosystems</p> <p>Photo by T. Batterson</p>
Scat	Wild animal droppings		<p>Nutria leave behind scat that is dark green or black, cylindrical, about 2 inches long and usually has deep parallel grooves its entire length</p> <p>CDFW photo</p>
Size	How large or small a plant or animal is	 <p>Nutria                      Beaver                      Muskrat</p> <p><i>Silhouettes courtesy of USFWS</i></p>	
Tracks	An animal's footprint		<p>A nutria track shows webbing between four of the five toes on the hind foot and a tail drag line in the middle of the tracks</p> <p>Courtesy of Peggy A. Duhon</p>

## Word Search Solution



### Resources

#### ONLINE

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invasives>

<http://www.californiaherps.com/>

<https://www.cal-ipc.org/>

<https://www.cnps.org/>

[https://dbw.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=28764](https://dbw.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28764)

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/NATURAL/index.html>

#### BOOKS

Field Guides

Describes what an invasive species is and provides profiles of many that are found in our state.

Learn all about native and invasive reptiles and amphibians.

Provides information about invasive plants found in California

All about native plants in California

Describes the invasive aquatic plants found in our waterways

Good inventory of insect, plant, aquatic and animal invasive species

These can be for a category (Birds, Plants, Animals) usually for a specific region or locale