

Lionfish Presentation Worksheet



Name(s): _____

Date: _____

Background

Lionfish are an invasive predatory species that are native to the Indo-Pacific region but have become established in Florida waters during the past 30 years. Lionfish have been coined “the perfect invader” due to their 18 venomous spines, lack of natural predators, high reproductive output, voracious appetite, and wide tolerance of temperature and habitats. They have the potential to negatively impact native marine life and habitat in the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico. Today you will dissect a lionfish to learn more about the physiology, biology, and ecology of this invasive species.

Instructions: Follow along during the presentation and use the information presented to answer the following questions.

Invasive Species:

1. What is the difference between an invasive species and a non-native species?
2. True or False? (Circle one): Most reports of non-native marine fishes have been reported by citizen scientists.

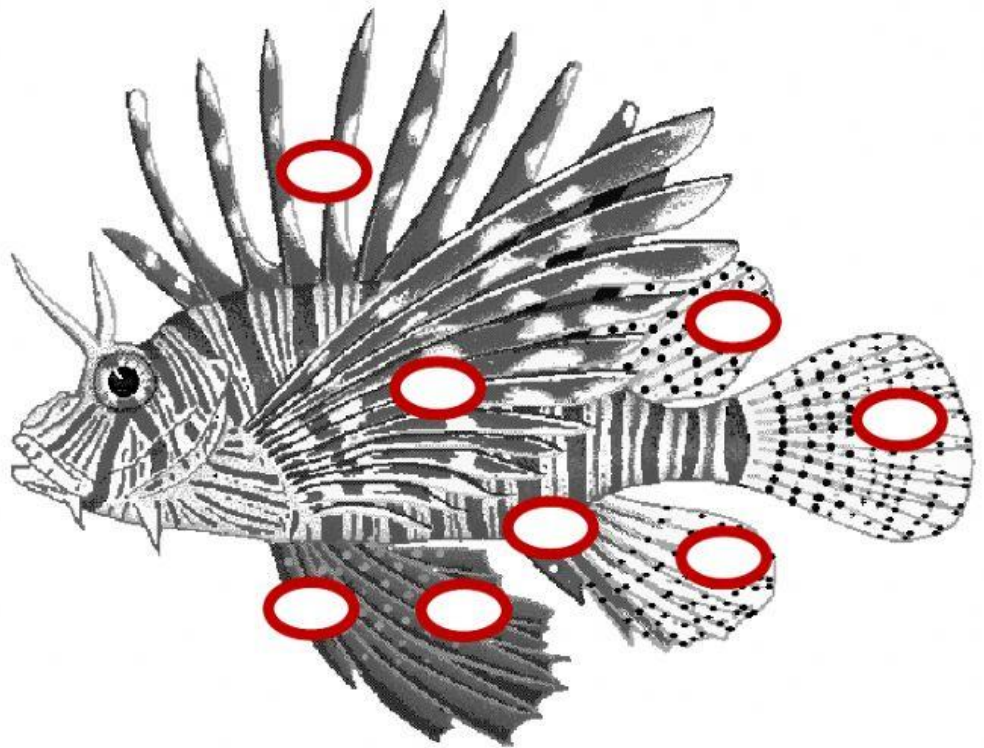
Lionfish Invasion:

3. What two species of lionfish have invaded the western Atlantic, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico?
4. List three characteristics that make lionfish such successful invaders:
5. How many venomous spines do lionfish possess? Are all the fins of a lionfish venomous?
6. True or False? (Circle one): Lionfish can live in 1 to 1,000 ft. of water, survive temperatures as low as 50° F, and salinities from 4 ppt to 35 ppt (nearly freshwater to saltwater).

Lionfish Biology:

7. Write the number corresponding to the correct fin or spine of lionfish in its proper location.

1. Dorsal Spines
2. Dorsal Fin
3. Caudal Fin
4. Pectoral Fin
5. Pelvic Spines
6. Pelvic Fin
7. Anal Spines
8. Anal Fin



8. Fill in the Blank: _____ describes a substance that is injected through a bite or sting while _____ describes a toxin that is ingested, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin. Lionfish are _____ not _____.
9. Fill in the Blank: Lionfish eat _____ important species like _____ (list one). Lionfish also eat _____ important species like _____ (list one). Lionfish consume over _____ different species of invertebrates and fishes.
10. True or False? (Circle one): Humans are the only known predator of lionfish and lionfish are safe and delicious to eat!