

AQUATIC INTRUDERS: GOLDFISH EFFECTS



ACTIVITY GUIDE

SCAN TO WATCH LESSON



OPINION WRITING

Read the newspaper article below. Apply what you've learned to plan an opinion essay about releasing pet goldfish into the wild using the Boxes and Bullets Organizer on the next page.

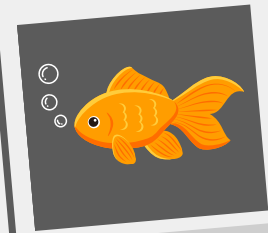
We're Going to Need a Bigger Fishbowl

By Brian Owens, courtesy of Great Lakes Now

A tiny goldfish might look cute in a fishbowl on your shelf, but if released into the wild it can grow to a terrifying size and become a menace to the ecosystem. They eat pretty much anything and everything, root up plants causing the water to become cloudy and dark, and reproduce and grow so quickly that almost no predators can stop them.

While goldfish may seem small and vulnerable, they are actually very good invaders. They are hardy and adaptable, able to survive and thrive under a wide range of temperature and oxygen conditions that many native species can't handle.

"Biologists must fight any perception that goldfish are harmless species when released into the wild," says Anthony Ricciardi, who studies invasive species at McGill University in Montreal. Tossing an unwanted pet into a pond or flushing it down the toilet can have serious consequences for our lakes and wetlands.



Opinion writing is a type of writing in which the author expresses their thoughts, viewpoints, opinions, or feelings on a specific topic of their choosing.

OPINION ESSAYS SHOULD INCLUDE:

1. Introduction of your opinion. Make it clear what you think about the topic.
2. Three reasons that support your thesis
3. Examples for your reasons
4. Conclusion



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OPINION WRITING

BOXES AND BULLETS: AN ORGANIZER FOR OPINION ESSAYS

OPINION:

People should not release their pet goldfish into the wild.

What are reasons why people should not release their pet goldfish into the wild? Use the boxes below to list three reasons to support this opinion. Add details to support your reasons next to the bullets.

REASON #1

- *
- *
- *

REASON #2

- *
- *
- *

REASON #3

- *
- *
- *

CONCLUSION: Finally, write one sentence that summarizes the stated opinion.