

# EXPLORERS MISSION

## INVASIVE SPECIES

**Your Mission is to identify and locate the Invasive Species we house here in the Reptilarium!**

**An Invasive species is an animal or plant that can reproduce in an area outside of its natural range.**

**Invasive species can be a problem because they take over the habitat of the animals or plants who already live there.**

### **Invasive Species #1**

**We like to be wet**

**We have Shells**

**We also have legs**

**We have recently been banned from being sold as pets in the European union as too many people were releasing us into areas we did not belong**

### **Invasive Species #2**

**We like to be damp**

**We also have shells!**

**We dont have any legs**

**We are a Giant problem when we arrive in countries that have a similar climate to our own. We can clear entire areas of vegetation**

### **Invasive Species #3**

**I get very big, upto 16ft long**

**I have no legs**

**I smell with my tongue!**

**My friends are causing problems in the Everglades after they escaped from a pet store in a hurricane!**

**Bonus Species - Cryptozoology exhibit -I may or may not be real**

**My latin name is mogwai it means Chinese devil**

**Never feed me after midnight and never get me wet!**

**These creatures caused a real problem one christmas, taking over a whole town in a matter of days.**

### **Invasive Species around us**

**The Isle of Wight is home to Red squirrels, luckily we dont have any grey squirrels over here who take their habitat like on the mainland. You can see Red Squirrels in the Country Park.**

**Ventnor on the southcoast of the island is home to a huge colony of italian wall lizards, they were introduced over a 100 years ago and now number in the many thousands.**