Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Aliens Invade!**

People move animals and plants all over the world. When a plant or an animal from one region starts living somewhere else, it can become an **invasive** **species** in its new habitat. Check out some of the more troublesome globetrotters.

**Red fire ants**came to the United States inside crates from Brazil about 70 years ago. They spread across the South and became a stinging pest.

**Zebra mussels** sailed to the United States aboard ships from the Caspian and Black seas in Asia. They took over habitats and clogged underwater pipes.

**Kudzu,** a vine from Asia, was brought to the United States in 1876. The vine quickly grew out of control, covering many trees, farms, and buildings.

**Cane toads** were brought to Australia in 1935 to eat beetles that were killing crops. It’s too bad that they also eat a lot of native wildlife.

**Vocabulary**

**Habitat:**

1. the natural environment of a plant or animal.

*An animal may suffer if it is removed from its habitat.*

1. a place of shelter or dwelling.

*These structures provide temporary habitat for the victims of the disaster.*

**Native:**

1. being the place of birth of a person, or having to do with a person’s place or situation of birth.

*He missed his native country.*

*She is a native speaker of English.*

1. belonging to a person or persons because of their place of birth.

*Spanish is his native language.*

**Cause and Effect Questions**

 What are invasive species?

1. plants or animals that constantly move from one environment to another
2. plants or animals that leave an environment when they are unable to survive in it
3. plants or animals brought into an environment that crowd out native plants or animals
4. plants or animals brought into an environment that help native plants or animals survive

**2.** The text lists and describes four different invasive species. Based on information in the text, what kind of effect did red fire ants and zebra mussels have on their new habitats?

1. a negative effect
2. a positive effect
3. both positive and negative effects
4. mainly a positive effect with some negative effects

**3.** Why were cane toads brought to Australia?

1. to eat a lot of native wildlife
2. to eat beetles that were killing crops
3. to increase the populations of invasive species in Australia
4. to decrease the populations of invasive species in Australia

**4.** Read the following sentences from the text:

“People move animals and plants all over the world. When a plant or an animal from one region starts living somewhere else, it can become an invasive species in its new habitat. Check out some of the more troublesome **globetrotters**.”

Why does the author use the word “**globetrotters**” to refer to invasive species?

1. because they travel from one place to another
2. because they crowd out native plants or animals
3. because they usually sail aboard trips on their way to new environments
4. because they tend to kill other species

**5.** Compare the effects of kudzu and cane toads on their environments. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**(complete sentence)**