

**Aims:**

To reinforce and expand on the introduction pathways of non-native species to Great Britain through a fun theatrical and geographical game.

You will need:

- Ropes, cones, hoops etc. to mark out “Planet Earth” on the ground

Instructions:

1. Split the group into small teams to research a specific invasive species. They will need to know; which country their species originated in, their life there, how they got to GB, how they got into the wild and how they spread throughout GB after arrival etc. This research informs the later acting activity works so is important!
2. Mark out “Planet Earth” on the ground, roughly 10m x 10m, using whatever materials are available. Make sure the major continents, countries and GB are all represented. The participants will be moving around the planet so they must be able to walk over the “map”.
3. The teams then act the introduction out, moving around the map and acting out and describing what was happening and when. One member of the group could commentate while the others act.
4. At the end of the activity everyone will be standing in the same place.

Example: American Mink

- Actors start standing in North America
- *Commentary:* “I am an American Mink, I come from North America where I like to hunt in wetlands for mice, snakes and muskrats, but I’ve got to watch out for coyotes who hunt me”.
- *Acting:* scurrying about hunting.
- *Commentary:* “In 1929, we were captured and taken across the Atlantic Ocean on a boat to England”.
- *Acting:* Row across the Atlantic
- *Commentary:* “We arrived in Devon and were put into a farm so rich people could buy our fur”.
- *Acting:* Standing in Devon - in a cage.
- *Commentary:* “We managed to escape and made a new home here in England.
- *Acting:* Escape cages move around happy and free.
- *Commentary:* “This is a great place, there’s loads to eat and no-one hunts us, so we can move great distances up these lovely rivers.”
- *Acting:* Move and spread across entire Great Britain.

Handy notes:

When you mark out your map you might want to make GB larger than true scale so you can move around within the country!

Make sure that the places your selected invasive species started from are represented on your map.

Make sure each team chooses a different invasive species.

If you did activity 1.3 “Scene of crime report” the team could choose one they did for this and find out some more detail.

Do more:

You could use these invasive species migrations and movements to support creative writing – stories or poems perhaps.