

Name: _____

Date: _____

YELLOW-FLAG IRIS IN THE CLAYOQUOT & BARKLEY SOUND REGION

StoryMap Scavenger Hunt

This activity was developed by West Coast NEST, an initiative of the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, based on the 'Yellow-Flag Iris in the Clayoquot & Barkley Sound Region' [StoryMap](#) created by Associations of Wetland Stewards of Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds, with funding provided by the NSERC PromoScience program.



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StoryMap Scavenger Hunt

Pre-Reading: The goal is to activate and connect to prior knowledge: *Full sentences*

What do you know about invasive species? What impact(s) can they have on an ecosystem?	
What invasive species exist in your community?	
What questions do you have about invasive species or yellow-flag iris, specifically?	

Activity: Work through the StoryMap to assist you with answering. Take your time and think critically. *Point form accepted, make sure to answer all parts of the question*

Where does yellow-flag iris invade? What areas specifically?	
What is the deadly combination of yellow-flag iris?	
What helps this plant spread?	
What does yellow-flag iris do that makes it difficult for other plants to grow around it?	

What other impacts does this invasive plant have on local ecosystems	
What do you have to consider when trying to remove yellow-flag iris?	
What is a benthic barrier?	
Have a look at the yellow-flag iris patch map - how many of the patches are being formally studied?	
Where is the main testing/study site?	
What is the difference between removing iris that has been treated with a benthic barrier and a patch without?	
What is a first step in stopping the spread of yellow-flag Iris?	
What is an phone application you can use to document areas of yellow-flag iris?	
What two organiztaions are working on yellow-flag removal in Tofino and Ucluelet?	

Critical Thinking Questions: Apply your understanding, think bigger, deeper and connect. *Full sentences*

Would you like to get involved in removing yellow-flag Iris? Why or why not?	
What suprised you about this plant?	
What do you think the best strategy is to get rid of yellow-flag iris in Tofino and Ucluelet? What would you do if you were leading efforts to remove this invasive plant?	



TEACHER RESOURCE

This key uses typical answers based on the StoryMap content; adapt as needed

Where does yellow-flag iris invade? What areas specifically?	They invade ditches, wetlands, streams, lake shorelines, and shallow ponds.
What is the deadly combination of yellow-flag iris?	It is a quick-spreading plant and difficult to remove.
What helps this plant spread?	It reproduces quickly, the seeds can float on the water, and people actually plant it due to it's colourful appearance.
What does yellow-flag iris do that makes it difficult for other plants to grow around it?	It has a very dense, horizontal root system that forms a mat and leaves no space for other local species to grow.
What other impacts does this invasive plant have on local ecosystems?	It chokes out other plants, so they cannot grow. Because it reduces certain species that are habitats for animals - it negatively impacts birds that nest in these local plants that can no longer grow. It changes the carrying capacity of water within a wetland and blocks irrigation ditches and canals.
What do you have to consider when trying to remove yellow-flag iris?	That even small fragments of roots can regrow, so you can't leave anything behind.
What is a benthic barrier?	This technique utilizes a weighed-down tarp to suffocate the roots of the plants under the water table. Cutting plants to the ground, then covering them with a benthic barrier deprives the yellow-flag iris of light and oxygen.
Have a look at the yellow-flag iris patch map - how many of the patches are being formally studied?	Two.
Where is the main testing/study site?	Big Beach in Ucluelet.
What is the difference between removing iris that has been treated with a benthic barrier?	The root system is weaker so you only need a shovel and hands versus using a pickaxe on dense root mats.

What is a first step in stopping the spread of yellow-flag Iris?	Don't plant!
What is an phone application you can use to document areas of yellow-flag iris?	iNaturalist.
What two organizaitions are working on yellow-flag removal in Tofino and Ucluelet?	Wetland Stewards for Clayoquot & Barkley Sound and Redd Fish Restoration.

Critical Thinking Questions: Answers will vary

Suggested Extension Activities & Continued Learning Opportunities

- Create a yellow-flag iris t-shirt design to help promote the removal of this species
- Check out various invasive species activities and lessons plans here: <https://bcinvasives.ca/resources/publications/>, <https://bcinvasives.ca/for-youth/for educators/>
- Research a new invasive species and create an informational poster, video, or blog to help educate others
- Explore your local community to pinpoint locations of invasive species using the iNaturalist application

Curriculum developed by **Monique Comeau** of the West Coast NEST, an initiative of the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, based on the 'Yellow-flag Iris in the Clayoquot and Barkley Sound Region' [StoryMap](#) created by **Barbara Beasley** of the **Associations of Wetland Stewards of Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds**, with funding provided by the NSERC PromoScience program.

What is West Coast N.E.S.T.?

The West Coast N.E.S.T. (Nature. Education. Sustainability. Transformation.) is a regional initiative led by the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust that connects communities, organizations, businesses, and knowledge holders on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Through education, collaboration, and capacity-building, the NEST creates meaningful learning opportunities, promotes the region's diverse educational programs, and supports a resilient and diversified local economy.

The NEST also facilitates place-based learning by connecting learners with local experts, creating educational resources, and hosting community events.

Learn more at westcoastnest.org.

Looking for more place-based educational content?

The West Coast NEST connects visitors and residents with unique and impactful learning opportunities. Many of these come in the form of place-based, face-to-face, and hands-on activities, but the NEST also helps share the region's abundant knowledge with schools and learners from afar. You can explore local research and conservation work through our online collaborative resources such as our interview series and our StoryMaps collection.

For high school, university, and adult groups seeking immersive educational experiences, we also offer customized itinerary planning, on-site orientation, and ongoing support for each visit. Delivered by regional partners, each program can be tailored to include hands-on learning in areas such as Indigenous culture, ecology, sustainability, science, language, history, outdoor education, and the arts.

Contact info@westcoastnest.org to start planning.

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