

### Exotic invaders



- 1 DNA tests have confirmed that three Nile crocodiles have been found living in Florida's swamps. It is not known for certain how they reached the US. "They didn't swim from Africa," said University of Florida herpetologist Kenneth Krysko. One likely possibility was that they were brought in illegally by unlicensed collectors. Owners sometimes fail to keep them secured or set them free on purpose, Mr Krysko told the Associated Press news agency.
- 2 The Nile species can grow to up to 6m (20ft), significantly larger than local alligators, which commonly grow up to 4m. They are known to prey on shrimp, fish, insects, birds and mammals, including humans. They are also known to attack livestock. Florida wildlife experts are concerned that the African species will unbalance the state's ecosystem if they breed in the Everglades wetlands.
- 3 Alien wildlife can severely damage an unprepared ecosystem. The Burmese python was first sighted in the Everglades in the 1980s and there is now an established population of the snake. When the Burmese python turned up far from home in the Florida Everglades it bred fast, sustaining its reproduction by feasting on endangered local wildlife, including alligators. There are now thought to be about 30,000 of the formidable snakes in the area.

- 4 But invading species aren't always large. The Indian Silverleaf – or Sweetpotato – whitefly, even though it is just a millimetre long, is estimated to have seriously damaged crops across California, Texas and Arizona in the 1980s.
- 5 Sometimes the species don't even have to invade, they are invited. Cane toads, native to South and Central America, were introduced to Australia in the 1930s in an attempt to keep the grey-backed cane beetle in check, which was destroying cane crops. But with no natural predator, the poisonous toads spread like wildfire, killing native species as they went.
- 6 And invasive species aren't always obviously menacing either. In 1859, Thomas Austin had 24 ordinary rabbits shipped to Australia for hunting purposes. "The introduction of a few rabbits could do little harm," he reportedly said at the time. But Austin underestimated the habit of rabbits to reproduce like, well, rabbits. Soon there were tens of millions and they killed off local plant species, having a devastating effect on Australia's ecosystem.

*bbc.com, 2016*

## Tekst 5

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- 1p 7 Which of the following can **not** explain why there are Nile crocodiles in Florida according to paragraph 1?  
A accidental escape  
B deliberate release  
C natural migration  
D unlawful import
- 1p 8 What is the main point made in paragraph 2?  
The Nile crocodiles are  
A a possible threat to the local environment.  
B difficult to keep in captivity.  
C in danger of becoming extinct.  
D of great interest to wildlife researchers.
- 1p 9 How does paragraph 3 connect to paragraph 2?  
A It summarises what is said in paragraph 2.  
B It supports what is said in paragraph 2.  
C It weakens what is said in paragraph 2.
- 1p 10 Welk nieuw punt over 'invading species' wil de schrijver maken met het voorbeeld van 'The Indian Silverleaf whitefly' (alinea 4)?  
*Geef antwoord in het Nederlands.*
- 1p 11 What is the main point made in paragraph 5?  
A Efforts to interfere in nature might go wrong.  
B Farmers are in favour of biological pest control.  
C It is impossible to domesticate wild animals.  
D The harm that insects can do is underestimated.
- 1p 12 'the habit of rabbits to reproduce like, well, rabbits' (alinea 6)  
Wat maakt de toevoeging 'well' in deze zin duidelijk?  
Het gaat hier om een  
A met tegenzin gegeven bevestiging.  
B moeilijk uit te leggen argument.  
C voor de hand liggend punt.

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### Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.