



Teachers' notes

supporting classroom resources and activities

Plant Pest Investigation

Post-reading activity 3:

A GIANT pest

Key concepts

Students should begin to:

- recognise that Giant African Snails (GAS) are pests
- understand why GAS are pests, and
- use movement to express their ideas about GAS.

Resources

- GAS fact sheets or GAS powerpoint

Lesson steps

1. In a circle, review the term 'plant pest' from the last activity (a plant pest is a disease or insect that makes plants sick).
2. Ask students if they have seen snails in their garden. Discuss what they looked like and how they move.
3. Ask the class to role play snails. Explain that this means they have to pretend they are snails and move around like snails do (some students can act as plants and be eaten).
4. Sitting down in a circle again, discuss with the students why snails are considered 'plant pests'. Explain to the students that the snails they see in the garden are quite small and don't do too much damage to our plants and crops. But there is snail that is a very big pest!
5. Show the students the GAS powerpoint or fact sheet. Read out the name 'Giant African Snail'. Ask students what 3 things they tell about this pest from it's name (it's giant, comes from Africa and is a snail).
6. Read through the powerpoint or fact sheet with the students.
7. After reading, discuss with students why GAS would be a pest if it came to Australia.

Further activities:

Discuss how local farmers would feel if they discovered GAS in their crop.

Make up a play to show what could happen if GAS was discovered in your town.

