

# Trial of Invasive Species



[Here's a link to the Trial of Bush Honeysuckle at the Old Court House St. Louis, Mo.](#)

# Trial of Invasive Species

An educational venue for dialogue and civic engagement, empowering connections between significant historical events and possible solutions to an issue in contemporary society.

The Judicial Process is a vehicle to communicate many points around the issue of the invasive species role in our environment and our own.

***Who, What, Where, When, Why and How . . .***  
these are questions.....

We await the answers.....



# ORDER IN THE COURT...

Here is how a trial generally goes

(Note - This is a civil trial)

The Judge introduces the attorneys and instructs the jury about the case.

The Prosecutor makes an opening statement.

The Defense makes an opening statement.

The Prosecutor calls witnesses and the Defense gets to cross-examine the witnesses.

The Defense calls witnesses and the Prosecutor gets to cross-examine the witnesses.

There are closing arguments from both sides.

The Judge reads the instructions to the Jury.

The Jury retires to deliberate the verdict.

The Judge reads the Jury's verdict.

# Trial of Invasive Species

## **Who does what.**

Each student has a role to play:

Plaintiff Lawyer (prosecuting the Invasive)

Plaintiff (bringing suit against the Invasive)

Witness 1 - for the prosecution

Witness 2 - for the prosecution

Witness 3 - for the prosecution

Defense Lawyer (defending the Invasive)

Witness 1 - for the defense

Witness 2 - for the defense

Witness 3 - for the defense

Bailiff - Keeps order in the court and calls witnesses

Jury Members

There can be more lawyers and witnesses

The Judge may be a teacher or a student

## Trial of Invasive Species

### **What Invasive Species is your group putting on trial?**

Decide on which invasive species to put on trial. It doesn't have to be a plant. There are all kinds of fish and animals that have become invasive.

Work together as a group for either the Prosecution or the Defense to research an invasive species. Write notes about what your group discovers to make your case.

Each student from the groups will need to take a role and be prepared to speak and/or do research and write a summary of the points for the case the group will make about an invasive species.

Use the outline below to help your group write the script for your mock trial.

# Trial of Invasive Species

## Part 1

### **Opening Statements**

#### **Student Roles**

What You Are Doing: Making Key Points

#### **Plaintiff Lawyer**

Summarize the argument and evidence from the plaintiff and witnesses statements. Argue why the invasive should be removed from the community.

#### **Defense Lawyer**

Summarize the argument and evidence for the defendant and witnesses statements. Argue why the invasive should not be removed from the community.

#### **The Jury**

Must be neutral since they have to decide the verdict.  
The Jury could be students from another class.

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## Part 2

### The Plaintiff's Case

**Plaintiff's Lawyer** will call upon the plaintiff first, and then each of the witnesses to testify (direct examination) and other physical evidence or arguments is introduced.

**Defense Lawyer** - will ask questions (cross-examine) of each witness and the plaintiff to try and disprove their argument.

**Plaintiff Lawyer** - Call upon the plaintiff and ask questions to get the plaintiff to read their statement.

**Plaintiff** - Share statement why you believe the invasive should be removed.

**Plaintiff Lawyer** - Calls upon each of the witnesses, ask them to describe who they are and to read their statements.

**Plaintiff Witness 1** - Provide a statement that explains why the invasive should be removed based on an economic, social, or environmental issue related to the presence of this invasive.

**Plaintiff Witness 2** - Provide a statement that explains why the invasive should be removed based on an economic, social, or environmental issue related to the presence of this invasive.

**Plaintiff Witness 3** - Provide a statement that explains why the invasive should be removed based on an economic, social, or environmental issue related to the presence of this invasive.

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## Part 3

### **The Defense Case**

**Defense Lawyer** will call upon each of the witnesses to testify (direct examination) and other physical evidence or arguments is introduced.

**Plaintiff Lawyer** - will ask questions (cross-examine) of each witness and the defendant to try and disprove their argument.

**Defense Lawyer** - Calls upon each of the witnesses, asks them to describe who they are and to read their statements.

**Defense Witness 1** - Provide a statement that explains why the invasive should not be removed based on an economic, social, or environmental issue related to the presence of this invasive.

**Defense Witness 2** - Provide a statement that explains why the invasive should not be removed based on an economic, social, or environmental issue related to the presence of this invasive.

**Defense Witness 3** - Provide a statement that explains why the invasive should not be removed based on an economic, social, or environmental issue related to the presence of this invasive.

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## Part 4

### **Closing Statements**

**Plaintiff Lawyer** - Summarize the argument and evidence from the plaintiff and the witnesses' statements; argue why the invasive should be removed from the community.

**Defense Lawyer** - Summarize the argument and evidence from the defendant and the witnesses' statements; argue why the invasive should not be removed from the community.

**The Judge** reads the instructions to the jury as to the verdicts sentence.

**The Jury** retires to make its decision.

**After the Jury has come to its decision the Judge** reads the verdict.

**Court is adjourned**

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## Part 5

### **What have you learned?**

Ask yourself and others what do you think about invasive species?

Or what you might have learned about jury trial process?

After you ponder a bit then get outside and see if you can find an invasive species and a native species.

See if you can figure out why they make a difference to our need for biodiversity.