

Spotted Knapweed Activities

Bike Tires. Clean off the Seeds
Play Audio Track #18
(30 minutes)

Levels
Grades 3-6

Subjects
Science, Art

Skills
Discussing, Creating, Showing, Assessing

Concepts
Structure and functions of living things;
interactions among technology, science and society

Objectives
Students will learn the many ways seed spread.
Students will understand that humans play a role
in contributing to weed spread.
Students will learn how to clean weed seeds from
bicycle tires, camping gear, clothing, and pets.

Materials (20 student class-size)
What's in Your World? CD audio track #18
(inside the back cover) - 1 per class
Flash Card of Spotted Knapweed - 1 per student
(inside the back pocket of the What's In Your
World? activity tool kit)

Time Considerations
Preparation - 5 minutes
Activity - 30 minutes

Lesson Overview
• Bike Tires. Clean off the Seeds
(30 minutes)

Background
Human activities are a primary cause of noxious
weed spread--between continents, over oceans,
within continents. Playing outside is a good exam-
ple to show one way that humans spread noxious
weeds, and how a little modification in behavior
can stop weed spread.

Learn what weeds may be in the places you play.
What do they look like?
*If you are hiking, would you recognize the weed
seed in your socks?*
*When you ride your bike do you know what you
are riding through?*
Do you know what plants your dog ran through?
Using water to wash a bicycle, boat, fishing and
camping gear before you leave a site is one good
way to leave weed seeds behind.

BIKE TIRES. CLEAN OFF THE SEEDS LESSON DETAILS

STEP ONE. Divide the class into 4
teams with 5 students in each team.
Make it clear that they will be playing
a game of charades (pantomime). Tell
each group to plan their own charade
with a focus on one specific outdoor
activity. Explain that they will act out
their activity without a single word
spoken.

For example, they could act out carry-
ing their fishing gear as they hike to a
wilderness lake to go fishing; making
sure their gear is clean before fishing;
cleaning off any weed seeds they picked
up unintentionally at the site; hiking
back to their home where they use a
hose to spray down their gear, clean any
new seeds or weed plant parts from
their clothing and their pet if the pet
went with them.

Then ask the remaining students--*What
is the outdoor activity the students en-
acted?*
*What did they do to not spread weed
seeds?*

STEP TWO. After each team acts out
their charade (pantomime), ask the stu-
dents--*Where are some places that weed
seeds hide?* (clothing, undercarriages,
nooks and crannies in boats, on gear, and
on pets)

*How much time should you spend when
you are cleaning off your gear and cloth-
ing?* (as long as it takes to make sure
every seed is found)