 Invasive Species: Kudzu

Your Mission:

Create a visual presentation describing the costly effects of the invasive species Kudzu, and the impact it has on the ecosystem it overtakes!

Background Information:

The Kudzu vine was first introduced to the United States in 1876 at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. During the 1930s and 1940s the government promoted the use of kudzu for erosion control. But kudzu grew too well outside its natural habitat; it thrives in the hot summers and mild winters of the southern states, is difficult to uproot and has no natural predators outside of Asia. It now covers seven million acres of the Southeast. Today, it is recognized as an invasive species, and efforts are being made to control its spread.

Some call it "the vine that ate the South." It grows up to 1 ft. (30 cm) every day in the summer months, and can break power lines, kill trees and collapse buildings. It costs $200 per acre per year to control land that is covered with kudzu.

Tasks

1) Create a table to show the total cost per year of controlling 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 acres of land covered by kudzu.

2) Create a table to show the amount 1 Kudzu plant grows (in centimeters) every 1, 5, 10, 15, 20 days.

3) Research this invasive species further. Find out three interesting facts about the Kudzu plant using the resources below. You can also utilize Blue Creek’s library!

4) Put all of this information together in an eye catching presentation! Choose from the list below:

**Prezi** (at least 4 minutes in length)

**PowerPoint** (at least 6 slides)

**Newscast** (Using a flipcam-write out your script first)

Due Date:

**One Step at a Time**

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| Task 1Create a table to show the total cost per year of controlling 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 acres of land covered by kudzu. | Information Needed to Solve |

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| AcreA | CostC |
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| Task 2Create a table to show the amount 1 Kudzu plant grows (in centimeters) every 1, 5, 10, 15, 20 days. | Information Needed to Solve | Set this table up by yourself- You can do it!

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| Task 3Research this invasive species further. Find out three interesting facts about the Kudzu plant using the resources below. You can also utilize Blue Creek’s library! | Interesting Facts |