# Teacher Instructions:

**Problem Scenario:** ***"Pythons"***

**The Main Problem:** **Giant pythons are reproducing at a high rate in the Florida Everglades, threatening local wild life. What is the best way to deal with this problem?**

Your students will be viewing this problem from a social studies perspective.

**What risk are giant pythons to the people living in Florida (and beyond)?**

*Students will predict the possible risk that the giant pythons pose to humans living in the Florida Everglades, and areas beyond. They will also look at situations where humans have had to adjust to an "animal invasion," and create a plan to prepare local residents.*

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## Step 1
**Review Stimulus Items**

**Stimulus Item #1 — "Pythons" (US Park Service Fact Sheet)**

**Stimulus Item #2 — "Python Habitat" (map)**

**Stimulus Item #3 — "Australian Spiders" (video)**

***Students should take notes as they review the Stimulus Items*

## Step 2
**Classroom Discussion**

Lead a **class discussion** about issues related to the topic.
You are being provided a sheet to help you guide the classroom discussion.

**Product Option:** Divide students into groups, and have each group become **committee members on City Councils** for various towns in northern Florida and the deep south. At this time, the giant pythons (which are reproducing rapidly in the Florida Everglades) have not yet come to this far north, and no one knows for sure that they ever will. However, as committee members, your students must convince the other City Council members that they should take this problem seriously and invest money to be prepared if the python populations to migrate to the area. The groups must **present a Powerpoint** that shows how animal imbalances can have an impact on human lives and convince others to take action to control it.

## Step 3
**Student Response**

****students should have access to their notes as they enter their answers*

****students may also have access to the Stimulus Items as they enter their answers*

**"Testing Conditions" Option:** Have students answer the following questions using the online assessment system. Remind students to use information from the Stimulus Items to support their response.

1) **What are scenarios where an ecosystem can become "unbalanced" as a result of a rising population of a certain species? How can this have an impact on humans in the area?**
2) **What can be done by humans to be prepared for any sudden shifts in the local ecosystems?**

## Step 4
**Analysis**

Rubrics to grade student entries have been provided, and all questions have been mapped to the content standards. Results can be analyzed through the online system.