## ENEMY RELEASE HYPOTHESIS

The Enemy Release Hypothesis is an ecological concept that suggests when a species is introduced to a new environment, it may experience a reduction in the negative ecological pressures it faces, such as

## predation, competition, or disease, compared to its native habitat.

This reduced pressure can lead to population growth and competitive advantage for the introduced species, potentially allowing it to become invasive and outcompete native species in the new ecosystem.

The hypothesis highlights the importance of biotic interactions in shaping ecological communities and understanding the impacts of

### Enjoy learning about the hypothesis through the fun game ahead!

• **MUSHASHREE** 

**2023MSCES19** 

invasive species.



### THE ECOSYSTEM INVASION GAME:



### ENEMY RELEASE HYPOTHESIS

UNLEASHED!



### Hey there, eco-explorers! Buckle up your seatbelts and get ready for a thrilling adventure into the world of ecology.

Today, we're diving headfirst into the exciting realm of the "Enemy Release Hypothesis." Imagine it as a game, a little like an ecological mystery thriller.



## The Native Ecosystem





### You're in a lush, natural forest filled with all sorts of creatures, like squirrels, frogs, and caterpillars. Everyone is happily going about their business, living in ecological harmony. The forest is your first level.

### Hey!! I am already at my level 1, when are you going to catch me!!

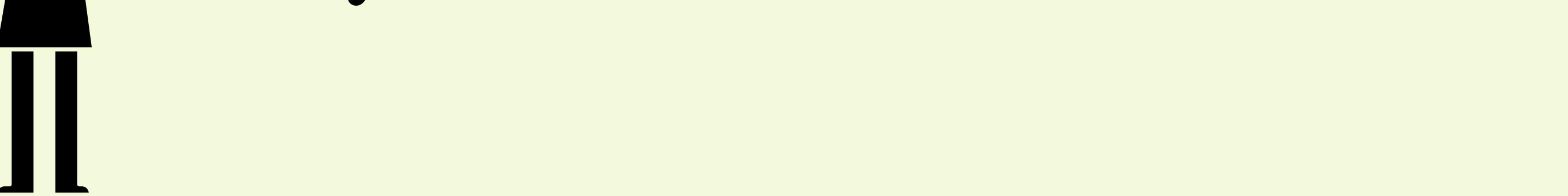


## The Alien Invasion

Suddenly, there's a twist!

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?





### A spaceship crashes into your peaceful forest, and out tumble a bunch of strange, never-before-seen creatures

## These are the aliens, and they're not like the friendly ET you might have imagined.



They are invasive species who came to your forest from afar. They have no natural enemies here – it's like a buffet with no bouncers! These aliens start eating, reproducing, and partying like there's no tomorrow.

### Ahh I am scared of them, are you??



## The Enemy Release Hypothesis

#### Now, here's where the game gets really interesting.



### The aliens thrive and multiply because nothing in the forest is preying on

# them. No squirrels gobble them up, no frogs give them a jump scare, and no caterpillars chomp on their leaves.





## **Ecological Imbalance Alert**

As the aliens throw their wild parties and eat everything in sight, your forest begins to change.



## Trees are losing their leaves, animals are losing their food, and things are spiraling out of control.

### It's time for you, the eco-explorer, to step in!

I am ready!! Are you??





## **Restore the Balance**

### In this level, you become the hero.





You need to reintroduce the natural predators, parasites, and competitors of these invasive aliens back into the forest.



#### Think of it like inviting the best bouncers to the alien buffet!

### Super power!!! Come back natural predators!!!



## The Great Balance Quest



## You have to find the right predators and carefully release them into your forest without harming the native creatures.



The squirrels, frogs, and caterpillars are your allies in this quest, helping you figure out who should come back to the party and who should stay away.

### Come on friends!! together we can solve this!!





## **Ecological Balance Restored!**

Once you've done it, you'll see the magic of the Enemy Release Hypothesis in action.



The forest starts to regain its harmony. The aliens aren't as over-the-top anymore, and the native creatures get their space back.

#### Yuhuu!! We did this!! We won!!!

## Congratulations!

### You've Unleashed the Enemy Release Hypothesis!

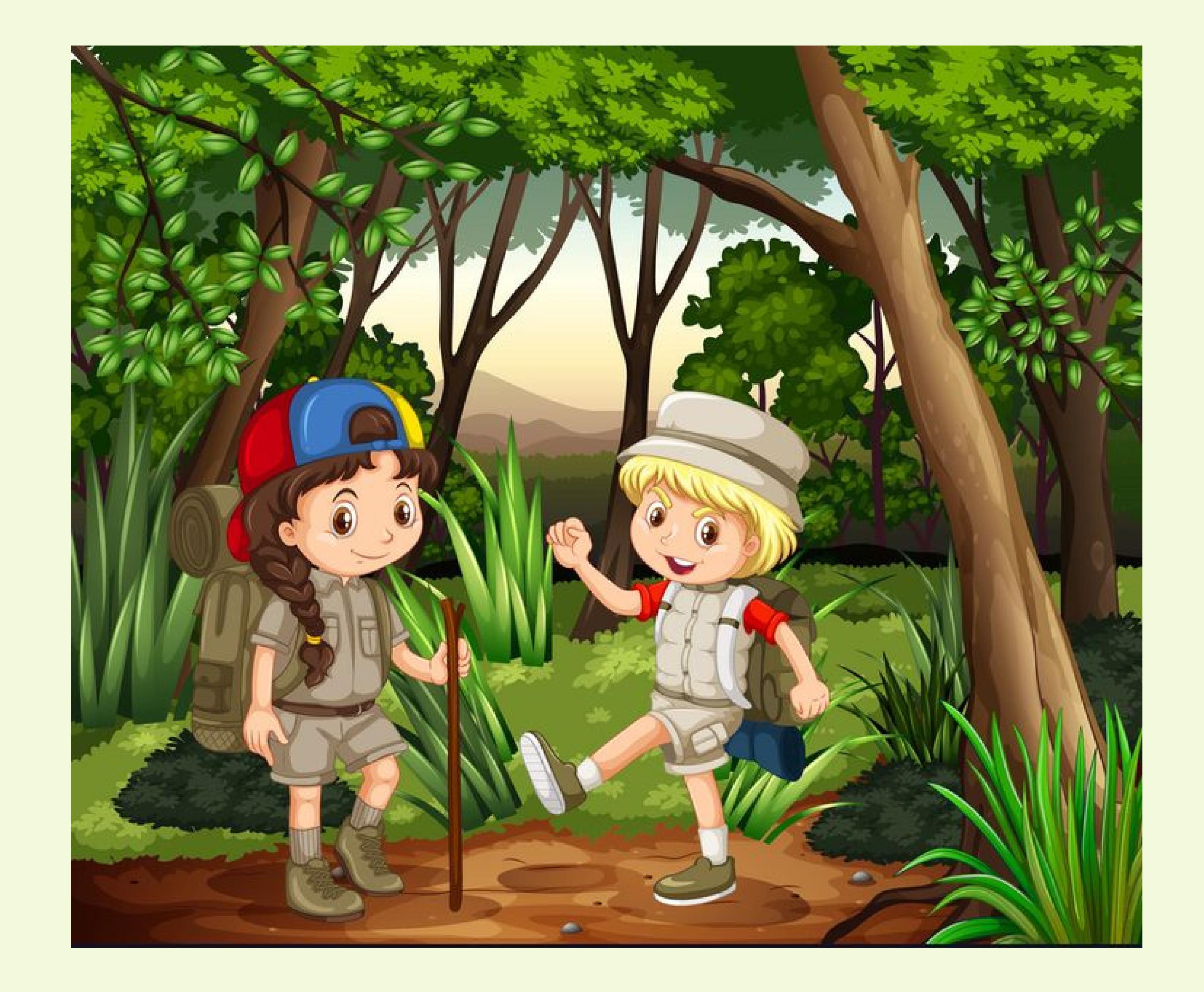




## You've saved your forest, and everyone's living in balance again. The aliens have found their place, and the native creatures are happy.



## You, the eco-explorer, are the ultimate hero.



## Thank you for participating!