



In this FACTivity, you will use the findings from this study to draw a conclusion about the possible danger from a nun moth invasion. You will answer the following question:

Could nun moths damage trees growing in your area?

You will use the following method to answer this question:

1. Reread the “Findings” section of this article. Make a list of the types of trees nun moths like to eat.
2. Consult a guidebook to learn which trees can be found in your area. You can find books in the library or you can find this information on the Web. Usually, guidebooks will present the trees that grow in a large area, such as the Southeastern United States, or the Great Lakes area. Using the list you made in #1, identify which trees, if any, are growing in your area that the nun moth may want to eat. Do not forget that, according to this article, the nun moth likes all conifer trees.

3. Make a list of the trees growing in your area that a nun moth might like to eat.
4. Basing your conclusion on the list you made in #3, what would you conclude about the potential impact of the nun moth if it were to invade in your area?
5. Hold a class discussion about the potential impact of the nun moth in your area. Basing your thoughts on this discussion, do you think it is important to protect the United States from a possible nun moth invasion? Why or why not?

### **Activity extension:**

Make an inventory of the trees growing in your schoolyard. If the nun moth were to invade in your schoolyard, what kind of effect would it have? How would your schoolyard look different?

If you are a Project Learning Tree-trained educator, you may use PLT Pre K–8th Activity Guide #40, “Then and Now,” and Activity Guide #3, “Peppermint Beetle,” as additional activity resources.

These activities teach what happens when a nonnative species is introduced and how insects use their sense of smell to find food and mates.