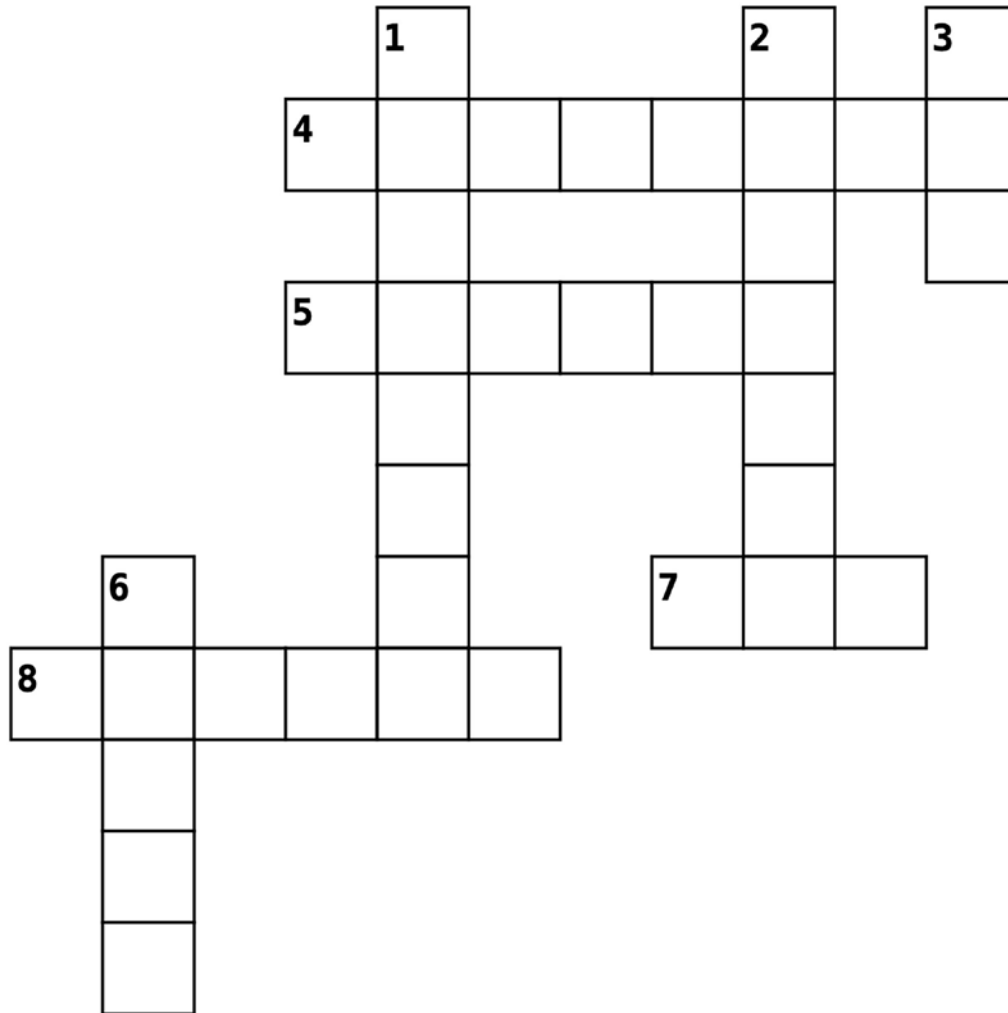


Introduced Species Crossword!

People have brought new plants and animals to the Caribbean since prehistoric times, both by accident and on purpose. These are called introduced species. But the balance of nature on an island is really fragile. So when new things arrive from outside, it can be disastrous!

Just one introduced species can cause many different problems. It can hurt local wildlife and habitats. It can wipe out special kinds of plants or animals forever, and even damage whole ecosystems. It can also be bad for people, or businesses. Guess some of St. Martin's introduced species in this crossword!



Across

4. This pink-flowered vine grows over native trees and plants, and smothers them.
5. This big lizard can be green, gray, brown or orange. The ones here today are not originally from St. Martin!
7. It's furry, purry, and usually a pet. But many live wild here and hunt local birds.
8. It's smart, climbs trees and has a long tail. It eats lots of native wildlife, and also destroys gardens!

Down

1. It's long, furry, and eats native reptiles and birds. It already wiped out three of our special reptiles!
2. This introduced fish eats native fish and water plants, and disrupts pond ecosystems.
3. Colonizers accidentally brought this hairy pest here by ship. It eats crops, and seabird eggs and chicks.
6. It may seem cute, but this tiny rodent infests houses, carries disease, and poops in people's food!