

# THE PROBLEM WITH CANE TOADS IN KAKADU NATIONAL PARK



Use the information below to answer questions about the Problem with Cane Toads in Kakadu National Park.

Kakadu National Park is home to many wonderful animals, including native frogs. However, these frogs are facing a big problem because of cane toads. Cane toads were brought to Australia from South America many years ago to control pests in sugar cane fields. But this plan didn't work out as expected. The toads started spreading all over, including into Kakadu National Park.

Cane toads are harmful to native frogs for several reasons. First, they eat the same food as many frogs, which makes it harder for the frogs to find enough to eat. Second, cane toads are very big, so they can eat smaller creatures that frogs also need to survive. Most importantly, cane toads have a special poison in their skin that can hurt or even kill animals that try to eat them, including native frogs. As a result of these problems, the number of native frogs in Kakadu has gone down. People who look after the park are trying to find ways to stop cane toads from hurting more frogs and other wildlife.

1. Why were cane toads brought to Australia?

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2. What problems do cane toads cause for native frogs?

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3. What is dangerous about cane toads to other animals?

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Uses comprehension strategies to expand content knowledge.

