



Forest Fires

Warm-Up

- What are some common causes of forest fires?
- Are forest fires a common phenomenon in your country? When do they occur?
- What should you do if you see smoke or flames in a forest?



1) Read the text and mark the sentences with T for true or F for false.

Forest fires are a common occurrence in many parts of the world. They can be caused by natural phenomena such as lightning strikes or high temperatures, but they can also be started by humans through negligence or deliberate actions. The debate on whether forest fires are a natural phenomenon or man-caused disasters is ongoing.

Natural forest fires occur when there is an accumulation of dead leaves, twigs, and branches on the forest floor, which act as fuel for the fire. Lightning strikes, high temperatures, and strong winds can all contribute to the spread of the fire. These fires can be beneficial to the ecosystem as they help to clear out dead vegetation, promote new growth, and create habitats for certain species of animals.



However, man-caused forest fires are often the result of human activity. These fires can be started intentionally, such as arson or burning of agricultural land, or accidentally, such as leaving a campfire unattended or throwing a cigarette butt into dry grass. These fires can have devastating effects on the environment, destroying habitats, killing wildlife, and causing air pollution.

Preventing forest fires is crucial to protect both the environment and human lives. Governments and organizations around the world have implemented measures such as fire bans, education campaigns, and stricter regulations to reduce the number of man-caused fires. Additionally, proper forest management practices such as controlled burns and clearing away dead vegetation can help to reduce the risk of natural forest fires.



In conclusion, forest fires can be both a natural phenomenon and man-caused disasters. While natural fires can have some benefits, man-caused fires can cause significant harm to the environment and human lives. It is important for individuals and governments to take responsibility and preventative measures to minimize the risk of forest fires.

1. Forest fires can only be caused by natural phenomena.

F

2. Dead leaves, twigs, and branches on the forest floor can cause for forest fires. T

3. Lightning strikes, high temperatures, and strong winds can cause forest fires to spread faster. T

4. Man-caused forest fires are always the result of arson.

F

5. Accidentally leaving a campfire unattended can start a man-caused forest fire. T

6. Forest fires can have positive effects on the ecosystem.

T

7. Governments and organizations have not implemented any measures to reduce the number of man-caused forest fires. F

8. Controlled burns and clearing away dead vegetation can help to reduce the risk of natural forest fires. T

9. Forest fires can only cause harm to the environment. F

10. Preventing forest fires is not important. F



2) Fill in the blanks using the words from the box

prevent, risk, extinguish, throw, weather,
immediately, butts, report, source, common,
distance, branches, forecast

How to PREVENT(1) forest fires

1. Clear your surrounding area:

Clearing your surrounding area is a crucial step to prevent forest fires. Clear dead leaves, BRANCHES(2), and twigs from your yard and gutters. Keep a minimum DISTANCE(3) of 30 feet between the trees.

2. Be careful with campfires:

Campfires are a COMMON(4) cause of forest fires. If you're going camping, ensure that the fire is within a designated fire pit. Keep a water SOURCE(5) nearby and always EXTINGUISH(6) the fire before going to bed.

3. Discard cigarettes properly:

Discard cigarette BUTTS(7) properly by putting them in ashtrays or cigarette bins. Never THROW(8) them out of your car window.

4. Stay up to date with the WEATHER(9):

Stay informed of the weather FORECAST(10) for your area. If there's a high RISK(11) of fire, avoid lighting any fires or using fireworks.



5. **REPORT**(12) any suspicious activities:

If you see any suspicious activities like smoke or flames, report them **IMMEDIATELY**(13) to the authorities. Don't try to take matters into your own hands.

By following these simple steps, you can help prevent forest fires and protect our beautiful natural resources.

3) Writing

Prompted by the recent increase of forest fires in Greece during the summer season, the editor of the city's blog has published the following call for articles.

"Forest fires can have devastating effects on local economies, wildlife, and communities. What steps can be taken to prevent and mitigate the damage caused by forest fires?"

Write an article on the topic above. (180-200 words)

Students should mention the forest fire effects related to the aspects mentioned on the topic. Then, they should suggest suitable measures to deal with the phenomenon of forest fires and how its consequences can become less severe.