

Teacher Resource

Episode 27 17th September 2019

Bushfire Season

Q Focus Questions

- 1. Discuss the *Bushfire Season* story as a class and record the main points of the discussion.
- 2. Which part of Australia were there bushfires recently?
- 3. How would you describe the bushfires?
- 4. Approximately how many bushfires having been burning?
- 5. What is different about this year's bushfires?
- 6. Much of NSW and QLD has had an above average amount of rain this year. True or false?
- 7. How does climate change affect events like bushfires?
- 8. Which typically cold countries have had bushfires this year?
- 9. What is the name of the bushfires that devastated Strathewen in 2009?
- 10. What is a bushfire plan?

Activity

Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN *Bushfire Season story* as a class. Ask students to record what they know about bushfires. What questions do they have? Use the following questions to help guide discussion:

- What are your first thoughts and images that come into your mind when you think about bushfires?
- What is a bushfire? Come up with a class definition.
- How do bushfires start? (Think about fuel, weather and geographical conditions).
- Where were the recent bushfires in Australia?

AINSTO

Key Learning

Students will learn more about the science of bushfires and the importance of bushfire survival plans.

© Curriculum

HASS - Year 5

The impact of bushfires or floods on environments and communities, and how people can respond.

Science - Year 6

Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions.

Sudden geological changes and extreme weather events can affect Earth's surface.

Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN *Bushfire* Season story. Students may want to use pictures and diagrams to illustrate the meaning and create their own glossary. Here are some words to get them started.

Bushfire	fuel	Fire triangle
Bushfire plan	Fire Danger Rating	ember





Bushfires Explained

Students will watch the ABC video the Science of Bushfires Explained and answer the following questions:

- Since the 1970s fire seasons have been starting...
- What causes fires?
- What three things does fire need to start?
- Fire travels more slowly up a slope than down. True or false?
- What is an ember attack?
- What is the most common way houses catch fire?
- What happened in the Yarloop fire in 2016?
- What type of tree is extremely flammable?





Bushfire Research

Students will be exploring bushfires in more detail. They can develop their own key questions to investigate or respond to one or more of the questions below. Students can complete the following KWLH organiser to explore their knowledge and consider what they would like to know and learn.

What do I <u>k</u> now?	What do I want to know?	What have I <u>l</u> earnt?	<u>H</u> ow will I find out?

Here are some possible questions for students to research:

- Research the difference between low, medium, high and extreme bushfire risk situations. Think about temperature, wind conditions, how dry it is and when it last rained.
- What is radiant heat and how is it dangerous in a bushfire? What steps can be taken to reduce the risks of radiant heat?
- How can the impact of bushfires on people and places be reduced?
- What is the Fire Danger Rating system? How is the fire danger rating decided upon?
- Research a major bushfire occurrence in Australia. Include the following information in your investigation: Where the fire started, what caused the fire and the damage it caused.

Students can present the information in one of the following ways:

- A 'Did You Know' Facts sheet
- Prezi presentation
- Oral presentation
- An infographic using <u>Canva</u>





Bushfire Plan

Students will learn more about bushfire survival plans. Watch the <u>short video</u> then hold a class discussion about making a bushfire survival plan. Ask students to respond to the following questions:

- What is a bushfire survival plan?
- Why is it important to have a bushfire plan?
- Who should have a bushfire plan?
- What sort of information should be in a bushfire plan?
- Why is it important for the whole family to be involved making the plan?



Students will research the four steps to get ready for a bushfire. They are:

- **Discuss** what to do if a bushfire threatens your home.
- **Prepare** your home and get it ready for bushfire season.
- **Know** the bushfire alert levels.
- **Keep** all the bushfire information numbers, websites and the smartphone app.

The NSW Fire Service website has more information about what to do to be well prepared for a bushfire.







2. PREPARE



3. KNOW



4. KEEP

BTN Bushfire Plan story

Students in the <u>BTN Bushfire Plan</u> story have a bushfire plan for their school in a high bushfire risk area. Watch the BTN story and answer the following questions:

- 1. Why is it important for schools in high risk areas to have a bushfire plan?
- 2. Describe the environment surrounding the school in the *Bushfire Plan* story.
- 3. What do you think makes a place more prone to bushfires?
- 4. What is the most vital part of any bushfire plan?
- 5. What alerts the students that there is a bushfire near their school?
- 6. What is a refuge? Illustrate.
- 7. List some of the items that are in the school's bushfire supply kit.
- 8. Is your school in a high-risk bushfire zone? Find out if your school has a bushfire plan.







Bushfire Plan - BTN

https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/bushfire-plan/10529444

Spring Fires - BTN

https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/spring-fires/10529528

Plan for an emergency: Bushfire – ABC Emergency https://www.abc.net.au/news/emergency/plan-for-an-emergency/bushfire/

Bushfire survival plan – NSW Rural Fire Service http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/bush-fire-survival-plan

