Introduction to Bushfires - Slideshow

Teacher Instructions and Answer Sheet

Images
The images in this slide show can be used as a stimulus to help teachers in an initial classroom discussion about bushfire. Images include smoke, helitacs, fire, burnt ground and emergency helpers (firefighters) and their vehicles. The slideshow also contains two class worksheets.

Worksheet/Templates
- ‘What we know’, ‘What we want to know’, ‘What we have learned’ OR
- ‘Fire Looks like…Smells like…Sounds like…Tastes like…Feels like…’

Activity One (Years 2 to 3): K-W-L Template
1. Teachers may use this template (or create their own) before commencing the modules to record what students know and what they would like to know about bushfires.
2. As the class completes modules, the class can return to the K-W-L chart to add what they have learned about bushfire.

Activity One (Pre-Primary to Year 1): Senses Template
1. Teachers may use this template (or create their own) before commencing the modules to record what the class knows about bushfire through their senses.
2. The class can add more information as they progress through the modules.

Activity Two: Truth or Myth
1. This activity is for students in Year 2/3. The slides depict five common bushfire misconceptions (or myths) that children have. With each slide, ask students, ‘Is this true, or is it a myth?’
2. Stop when you get to the ‘Answers’ slide. Print out the cards¹ and display them in your classroom under the headings Truth or Myth.
3. Once all modules are completed, return to this slideshow and the class’ ‘Truth or Myth’ display. Give students the opportunity to change their answers before you look at the answers.

¹ The cards are provided in a separate file for you to print from.

Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slide</th>
<th>Truth or Myth?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| When a bushfire comes, you get out of the house quickly, get down low under the smoke and crawl to the letterbox. | **MYTH:** In a bushfire, the house often provides the best available protection from radiant heat. The safest option is to leave early.  
*Smoke and Fire* is taught to primary school students when the fire is an inside fire 2 and the smoke alarm sounds (not a bushfire). Evidence shows that young students often confuse home fire safety and bushfire safety messages. To avoid confusion, it is important that home fire safety and bushfire messages are never taught together in the same lesson. |
| The best way to put out a campfire is to cover it with dirt or sand.  | **MYTH:** The best way to put out a campfire is with water. Make sure your fire is completely extinguished using water. Do not use soil. Fires can still smoulder under soil and can stay hot for more than eight hours. This is a danger to young children or anyone walking in the area once you have gone. Embers under the dirt or sand can be lifted by strong winds and start spot fires. |
| If we are away from the flames, we will be safe.                      | **MYTH:** We will be safe, if we can keep away from the flames AND the radiant heat from the fire.         
Protection from radiant heat is the most important priority, and radiant heat can be very significant at some distance from the flames of a major bushfire. LEAVING EARLY and being a long way from the fire is always the safest option. |
| We’ll be fine. The bush is a few streets away. Bushfires can’t cross the road. | **MYTH:** Embers carried by the wind can travel many kilometres ahead of the fire and start spot fires.  
Most houses are burnt in bush fires because of ember attacks. Embers can cause fires many kilometres in front of the main fire and can start falling up to an hour before the fire arrives at your home. You need to make sure that your home is properly prepared to withstand ember attack. |
| You can outrun a bushfire or drive really fast through it.            | **MYTH:** Even an Olympic sprinter would struggle to outrun a bushfire. The safest option, is to LEAVE EARLY.  
Fire is no slow coach. A bushfire can move up to 30 kilometres an hour through grass and forest fires can move up to 10 kilometres an hour. You can’t outrun a bushfire. It is extremely dangerous to drive through a bushfire due to the heat, smoke and fire. You can lose your way and drive straight into the path of the fire. PAY ATTENTION TO ALERTS AND LEAVE EARLY. |

---

2 DFES provides a Home Fire Safety program to Year 3 students. This includes a Year 3 firefighter incursion and an online Teacher Guide (includes classroom activities from all learning areas).