

Aim

To learn about who pays and who is held responsible for the extinction of a wildfire.

Description

A wildfire is a complex phenomenon involving a wide range of environmental, social and economic factors. In this challenge, we invite you to explore a wildfire that occurred in your area, making use of the narratives and perspectives of key actors and to share the research results in a creative and engaging way, and reflecting on how long it takes for a community to recover after a wildfire.

Linked units

- Unit 5: Preparedness
- Unit 6: Preparedness II
- Unit 8: Aftermath of a wildfire

Type of results

- Group discussion
- Teaching each other

Material you may need

- Pen and notebook

Scope of impact

- Classroom
- Educational centre

Professions related to the topic

- Economist
- Sociologist
- Public administrator

Activity: a case study of a nearby fire

If possible, go to a landscape that has been the stage of an important wildfire (in terms of its impacts on the community). Otherwise, find another place of interest to do the activity. Also, find two people: one linked to the extinction of the fire and another one directly affected by the fire.

Tasks

1. In the classroom, discuss what you know of that fire, share your experience and what it made you feel. Brainstorm together and write questions about the fire, its management and the impacts to the community (group).

You may want to include this topics:

- Groups of people involved in the extinction of the wildfire (for example, inhabitants of a neighbourhood, the fire services, or the local council)
- Sources for firefighting funding
- Insurance for landscapes
- Aid plans from the government

2. Go to the chosen landscape. Divide in two subgroups. Each one will have the opportunity to listen and ask the listed questions and other ones that come up to one of the guests. Take notes individually - you can share them but make sure you have your own. (group)

3. Divide in pairs, one of each subgroup. Now you will explain to each other what you have learned, with the help of your notes. (group)

4. Back in class, answer jointly all the questions you had listed. (group)

Complementary or extra activity:

In groups, explain what you have learned to other courses in your school.