






BURNING ISSUES

Overview

Section	Key Questions	Key understandings	What is the learner doing?
<p>Camp Ground</p>  <p><i>Seasonal weather conditions affect fire behaviour</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To burn or not to burn, how do we read the signs? 	<p>Climate, fire and vegetation are all related. Climate plays a key role in determining the vegetation types that are possible at a given place. Climate also directly affects how likely it is that vegetation will burn — both in the long term, and seasonally. Fires are most likely to occur after a dry period, in hot, windy weather, when humidity is low. These conditions produce hot, intense fires .</p> <p>Wind, atmospheric humidity and temperature are all important weather variables that affect fire behaviour</p> <p>The use of permits and fire bans supports the coordinated management of fire, minimising the risk of fires escaping and causing damage to life and property.</p>	<p>Exploring the fire meter (sign) learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpret the recommended safe and responsible ways for lighting campfires Interpret the fire risk at different times of the year

<p>Visitors' Centre</p>  <p><i>People have different roles, responsibilities and motivations for using fire</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People's perceptions: who cares about fire? • How do people's views of fire differ over time and place? • What are traditional Indigenous uses of fire? • What are some myths and misunderstandings about fire? • What are some of the issues associated with burning and sustainable land management that have been identified by the community? 	<p>Fire in northern Australia is more frequent and widespread than fire in southern parts of Australia.</p> <p>Fire is used as a valuable tool for northern Australian land managers.</p> <p>People all play different roles in managing fire effectively so they should be aware of all the effects of fire and the need to appreciate other land users.</p>	<p>Exploring the Visitors' Centre learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review information to connect with their prior knowledge using the myth busting maps and questions • Review the recent community survey graphed results to assist in identifying misunderstandings in the community and a possible target audience for their campaign • Explore different perspectives in order to interpret their needs and concerns • Interpret historical European perspectives of fire and Indigenous perspectives of fire
<p>Outback Cinema</p>  <p><i>Sustainable futures using Indigenous Knowledge and western science</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Our future: how do we burn for a sustainable future? ▪ What is the 'two-ways of knowing' toolkit? 	<p>Traditional burning practices result in substantial carbon benefits.</p> <p>When the tropical savannas are not burnt in a controlled way, massive fuel loads build up often resulting in devastating hot wildfires. Prescribed (controlled), patch (mosaic) burning in the early dry season prevents the threat of large-scale wildfires. .</p>	<p>Exploring the Outback Cinema learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interpret the ecological, social/cultural and economic impact of traditional indigenous fire practices ▪ Reflect on the impact of Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science working together for sustainability

<p>Savanna Lookout</p>  <p><i>Species adaptations responding to fire</i></p> <p><i>Using Scientific models to inform decision making</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ When to burn, why does it matter? ▪ What adaptations do some plants have to fire? ▪ How do plants and animals respond in different ways to fire? ▪ How does research and technology help us to understand the impact of fire and manage it for conservation? 	<p>Plants have adaptations (survival strategies) to resist and respond to fire. Many plants depend on fire in their environment to reproduce while others are fire-sensitive. Some animals take advantage of fire to provide prey.</p> <p>Different fire regimes (i.e. size, frequency, intensity and patchiness) effect plants and animals in different ways depending on the species. Patch burning / mosaic approach helps maintain diversity in a landscape or ecosystems. Introduced plant species such as Gamba grass effect ecosystems through changed fire regimes.</p> <p>Scientific models like The Flames Model enable us to understand how the timing and frequency of fire influences ecosystems in the long term.</p> <p>Simulation models integrate all the current scientific understanding and simulate management scenarios in a way that wouldn't be possible with field trials or using historic data.</p>	<p>Exploring Savanna Lookout learners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpret the fire survival strategies of key plant species and the impact of burning on various fauna found in the Savanna Lookout Walk • Interpret impact of burning/not burning over periods of time using the Flames Model • Reflect on the impact of introduced species (e.g. Gamba grass) on ecosystems.
<p>Guide</p> 	<p>Using the guide – <i>my notes</i> and <i>my task</i> – learners collaborate to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a range of strategies including note taking strategies to acquire, integrate examine and analyze knowledge and information in new ways to make meaning. • Evaluate and use technology tools that suit their needs • Construct an outline of the awareness campaign, demonstrating their understandings • Justify their ideas by identifying how the design would consider key effective communication features and the use of scientific evidence for a specific audience 		

