



JUNIOR RANGERS

FIRE

ACTIVITY

BOOK

**Parks**
VICTORIA

Sharing
Nature's
Stories

LIVING WITH FIRE

What evidence of bushfire can you see in a park on your next visit?

- Open seed pods
- Epicormic growth
- Black charred bark



Fire is an important part of maintaining healthy parks. Many of our plants and animals have adapted to survive fire in different ways.

Some **seed pods** will open after experiencing the heat of a fire. This will help the plant release seeds from the pod and start new plants growing after the fire.

Epicormic growth are small leaves that sprout from underneath the bark, giving burnt trees a fuzzy look. These leaves capture energy from the sun for the tree, while it recovers from the fire.

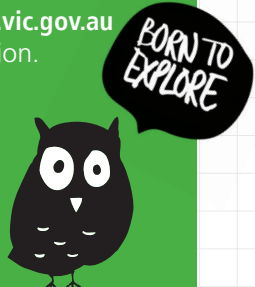
Label the fire adaptations

BORN TO EXPLORE

Junior Rangers are born to explore. If you have an interest in nature, animals and the outdoors then Junior Rangers is for you.

Junior Ranger activities are led by a park ranger and are designed to get families outdoors, have fun and learn about Victoria's wonderful parks together.

Visit juniorrangers.vic.gov.au for more information.

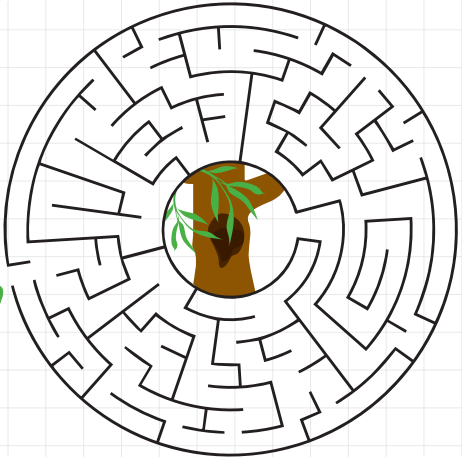
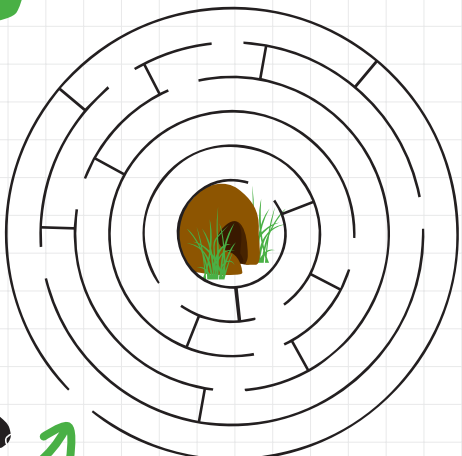


Amazing survival

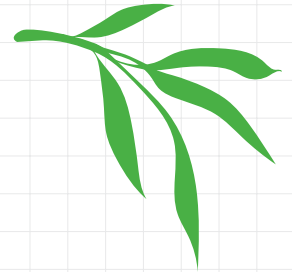
The plants in the bush need fire to survive and grow, but where do the animals go when there is a fire? Help each animal find their hide-out!

Help the wombat find the underground burrow...

Help the possum find shelter in a hollow, deep inside a tree...



FIRE IN PARKS

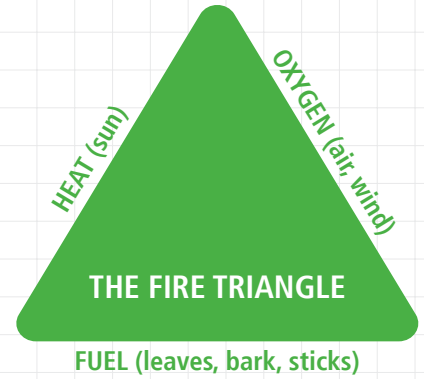


The fire triangle

Fire needs three elements to burn; heat, oxygen and fuel. These elements make up the fire triangle.

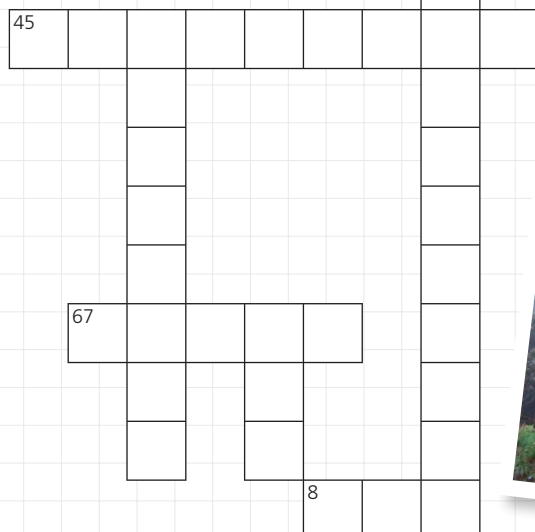
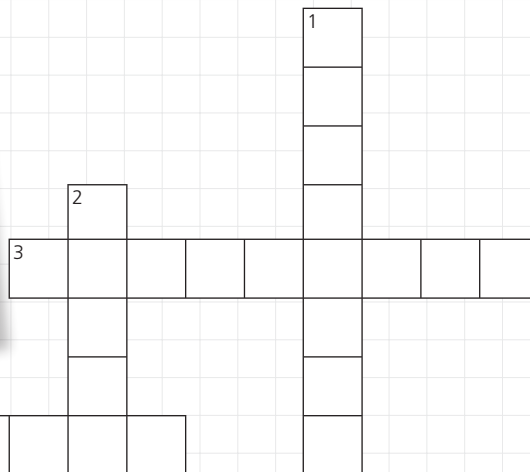
Fire fighters work hard to eliminate one or more of the three sides of the fire triangle to stop a fire.

- Water will reduce the heat.
- Dirt or fire fighting foam will smother the oxygen.
- Removal of trees and plants in the path of a fire will reduce the amount of fuel available to burn.



What causes bushfires in parks?

Bushfires can start in many different ways. Some causes are part of nature, others start because of people making mistakes. Discover how fires start by completing the crossword.



Across

3. During a thunderstorm, _____ can ignite dry fuel.
4. Farm _____ and tractors in open paddocks can get hot and accidentally ignite dry grass around them.
6. Fires are fanned with oxygen on _____ days.
8. Summer days can get very _____.

Down

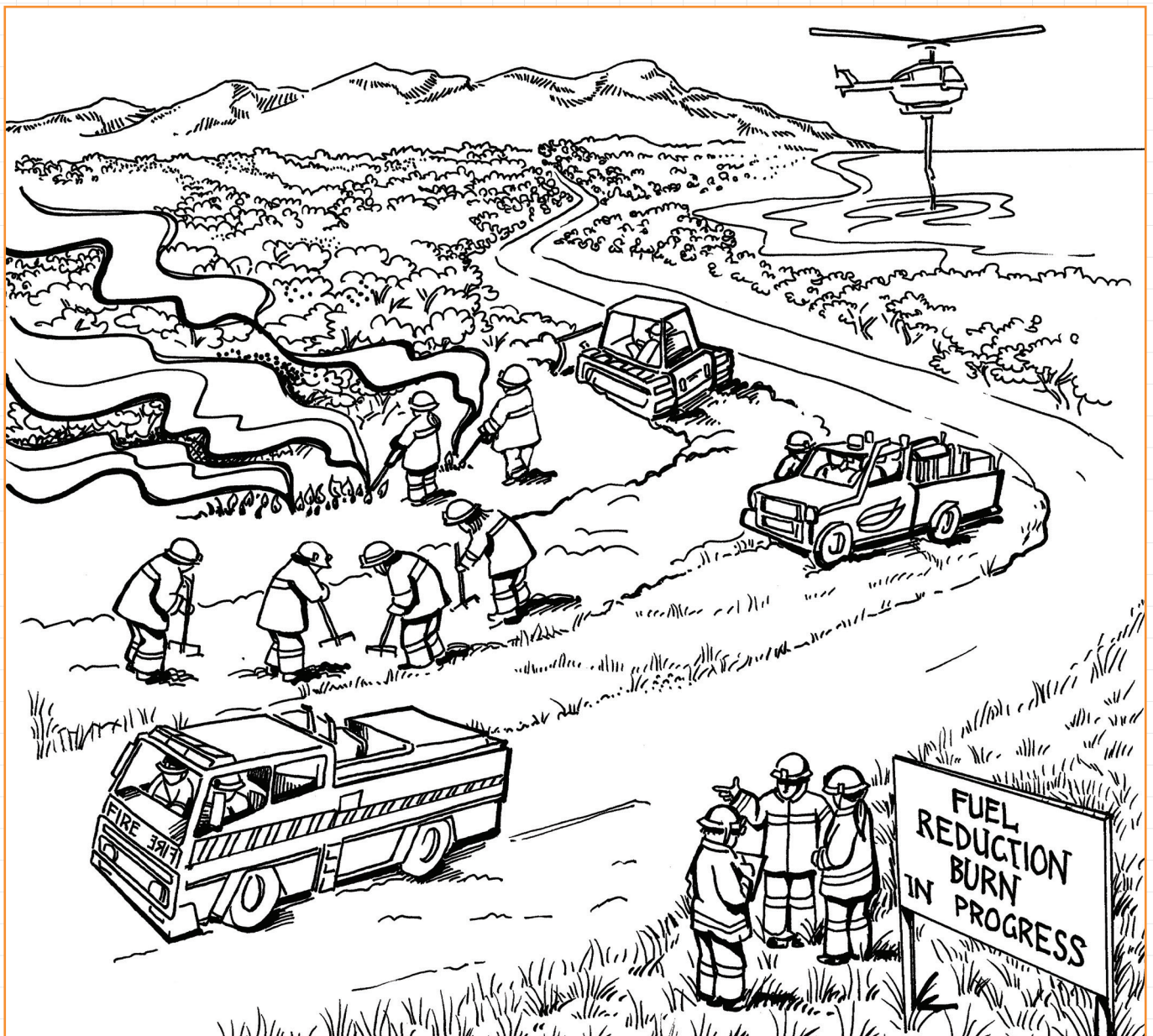
1. Sparks from a _____ used to cut logs on hot days can accidentally start a fire.
2. Fires can be accidentally started if someone smoking litters with their _____.
5. An unattended _____ that isn't completely extinguished can reignite and escape into the bush.
7. Lack of rain and warm days will cause leaves on the ground to become _____, making it easier to catch fire.

ANSWERS
ACROSS: 3: LIGHTNING 4: MACHINERY 6: WINDY 8: HOT
DOWN: 1: CHAINSAW 2: CIGARETTE BUTT 5: CAMPFIRE 7: DRY

FIGHTING FIRES TOGETHER

Forest Fire Management Victoria is a group responsible for managing fire in parks and forests. They work together with Country Fire Authority, Fire Rescue Victoria and other emergency services to find the best ways to manage bushfire.

Spot the work done that makes the job of managing fire easier. Number the drawing with the actions you see.



ACTIONS

1

Clearing vegetation to create a fuel break which provides a safe place for firefighters to access and fight a fire.

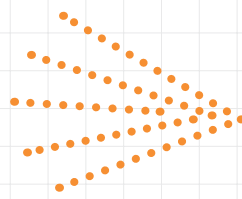
2

Providing water access points for trucks and helicopters to refill.

3

Conducting planned burns to remove fuel.

FIRE FIGHTING TOOLS



DID YOU KNOW?

Water sprayed from the back of a fire tanker can reach 25 metres into the air. That's five storeys high!

Find the firefighting tools in the word search.

- Fire truck**
- Drip torch**
- Bulldozer**
- Helicopter**
- Rake hoe**
- Helmet**

T R A L Z N H Q O H J H H G S
 U C U K J B M B I M E C D Z B
 D N F J K N P M G R X R L D D
 R E T P O C I L E H D O K R R
 H J T R N J U Z Z O U T G Q V
 C E C H R I O R D Z M P R C I
 W N L U V D X A T V K I N R V
 Z F E M L Q V D Q E B R L A Y
 L K W L E K B W R O R D E V D
 N T U E B T B H I U P I O Y W
 T B F Z Z V Z Z G W X L F M N
 C T D V K E C M Z A Z A E F L
 S K D A D R A K E H O E T N C
 Q H T Y P D L J Y J D H G K J
 T T Q W B T D C I H W D B A X

DID YOU KNOW?

Fire travels faster uphill than downhill. In extreme conditions, the top speed of a fire has been recorded at 25km per hour.



DID YOU KNOW?

There are over 1,000km of fuel breaks around Melbourne.



BE SAFE BE PREPARED

Fire danger ratings are based on the weather forecast and help us understand how dangerous a fire would be if it started.

Hot, dry, windy days will have a high fire danger compared with cold, rainy, calm days. Fire danger ratings are usually signposted on major roads and are shown as a semi-circle scale. An arrow or light will indicate the fire rating danger for the day.

Know before you go!

Check the weather before you go to a park.
bom.gov.au



Check the fire danger rating for the day and see if there is a Total Fire Ban.
cfa.vic.gov.au



Check for fires or other emergencies in the area you are planning to visit.
emergency.vic.gov.au



When the fire rating is moderate on the fire rating scale, what sort of weather would you see?

Draw how the bush looks in cooler times of the year. How much water is in the environment? What colour are the grasses and plants?

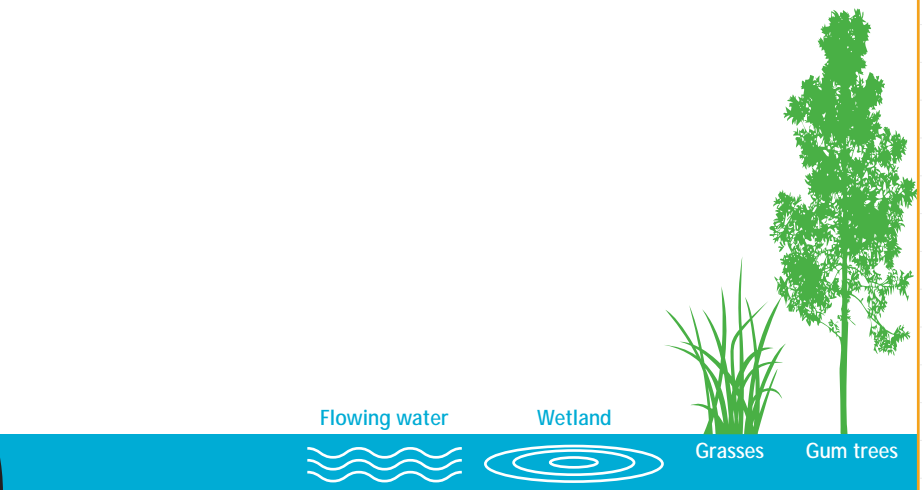


Flowing water

Wetland

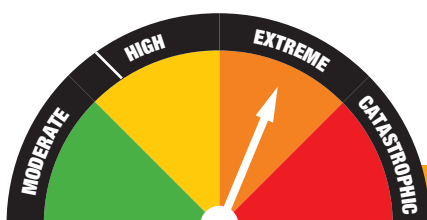
Grasses

Gum trees



When the fire rating is extreme on the fire rating scale, what sort of weather would you see?

Draw how the bush looks in hotter times of the year. How much water is in the environment? What colour are the grasses and plants?



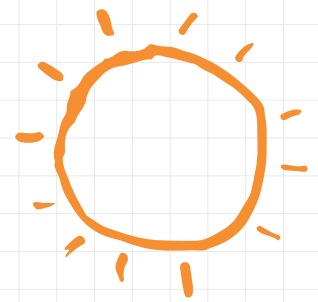
Dry river bed

Grasses

Banksia seed pod



WHAT IS A TOTAL FIRE BAN?



A Total Fire Ban means you can't light a fire in the open. No campfires, portable wood or heat bead BBQs may be lit. On days of Total Fire Ban, fires are likely to spread very quickly and can be difficult to control.

Park signs come in all shapes and sizes. They help keep us safe when visiting the park. Can you match the signs to the descriptions?



This sign is usually on gates and used to keep the area clear (e.g. no parking) in case firefighters need emergency access. **D1**



This sign tells visitors that there is currently work being done to prepare the park for the fire season. **D2**



This danger sign tells visitors to stay out of the park while a planned burn is being conducted. **D3**



These signs let park visitors know campfires or heat bead BBQs are not allowed. **D4**



This portable sign is displayed on days of Total Fire Bans often near park entry points or BBQ shelters. **D5**




This sign warns visitors it's not safe to enter the park due to fire risk and the park has been closed. **D6**

ZC = 9S
 EC = 9S
 SQ = 4S
 ID = ES
 9D = ZS
 4Q = 1S
 ANSWEERS

BEFORE AND AFTER A BUSHFIRE



 Victoria's networks of parks and reserves form the core of Aboriginal cultural landscapes. Parks Victoria acknowledges the continuing connection that Traditional Owners have to these landscapes and recognises their ongoing role in caring for Country on which we learn, play and live.

Can you spot the difference in the bush before and after a bushfire? Colour the scenery and write a list of changes you can see.

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