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EDUCATION

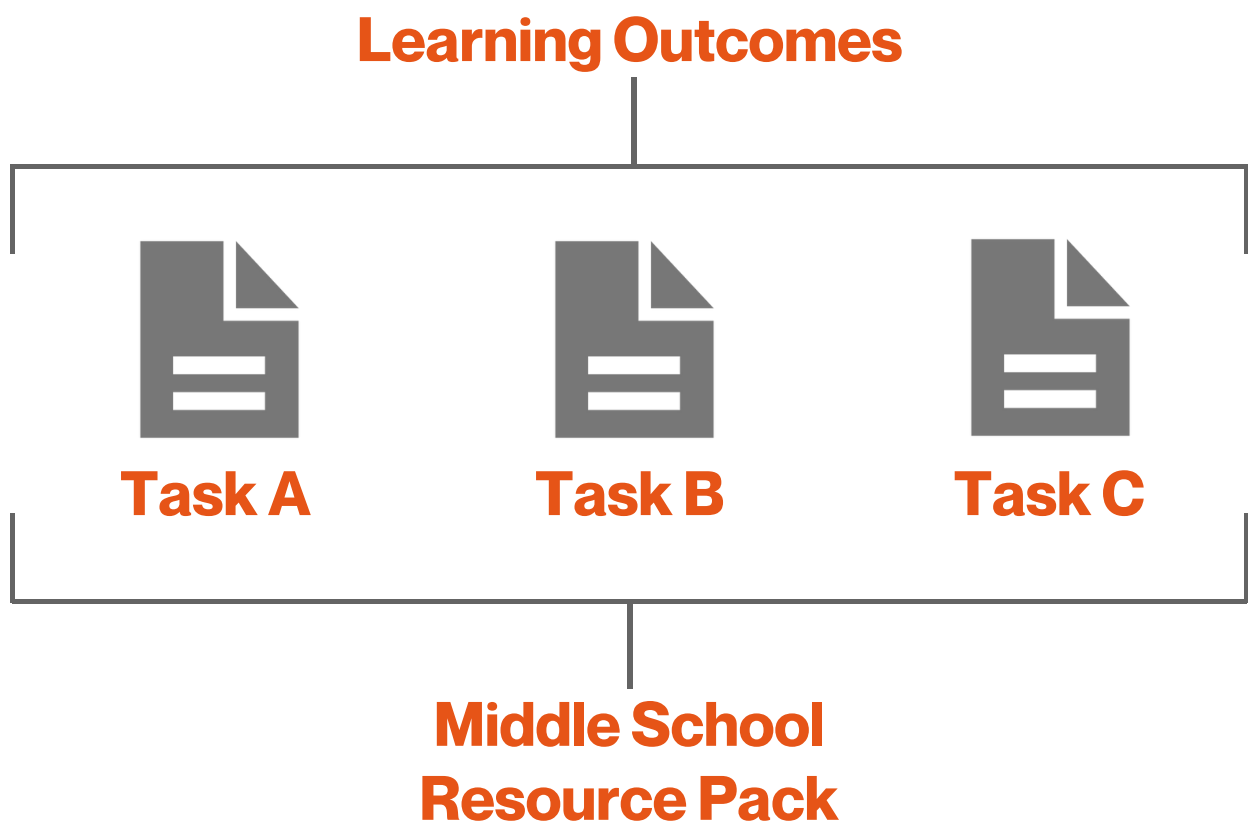
Australian Bushfires

Learning Resources and Activities aligned to
the Australian **Middle School** Curriculum

Introduction

Britannica's Curriculum Team has put together this series of Britannica School activity bundles to support your lessons around key curriculum topics and themes. Within each bundle, you will find a Britannica School resource pack containing differentiated, multimedia content related to the set topic, as well as supporting tasks and worksheets.

Here is what you will find in this thematic activity bundle:



***To use the contents in this resource pack**, you will need access to Britannica School. Check with your librarian to see if your school already has a subscription or start a free trial at elearn.eb.com/britannica-school/#free-trial

Australian Bushfires

Activity Overview

Bushfires are frequent occurrences in Australia. Examine the impact of bushfires on the Australian environment and people. Research prevention strategies to mitigate future fires.



Vocabulary

- Australia
- Bushfire
- Climate
- Communities
- Damage
- Environment
- Flora
- Fauna
- Frequency
- Harmful
- Impact
- Minimise
- Preparedness
- Prevention
- Response
- Severity

Learning Outcomes

ACHASSK114

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

Elaboration

Mapping and explaining the location, frequency and severity of bushfires in Australia.

Elaboration

Explaining the impacts of fire on Australian vegetation and the significance of fire damage on communities.

Elaboration

Researching how the application of principles of prevention, mitigation and preparedness minimises the harmful effects of bushfires.



Background Information

Bushfires are frequent occurrences in Australia because of the continent's generally hot and dry climate.

In fact, Australia is the most fire-prone country on Earth.

The impact of bushfires can be extensive and devastating, with significant loss of lives and massive property damage. At the same time, however, fire is a natural and necessary part of the continent's climatic cycle and an important factor in shaping its landscape.

Teacher Tip:

Learning about the Bushfires and their impact provides an opportunity for students to:

- Understand the causes and effects of bushfires.
- Prepare for and feel safe when bushfires occur.
- Respond to bushfires.
- Recover from bushfires.

Task 1

Explore the Causes, Processes and Effects of bushfires. Record your ideas in the Bushfires Table.

Task: Bushfires

Explore the Causes, Processes and Effects of bushfires. Record your ideas in the 'Bushfires' table below.



Tip: You can find articles and media on bushfires in the Britannica School 'Australian Bushfires' resource pack.

Bushfires	
Causes How do bushfires start? What conditions impact the chances of a bushfire starting?	
Processes What happens during a bushfire?	



Task: An Australian History of Bushfires

Research the history of bushfires in Australia. Record any facts and data that you find in the below table.



Tip: You can find information on past Australian bushfires in the Britannica School 'Australian Bushfires' resource pack, including articles, images or links to other reliable sources.

Financial Cost	Physical Extent of the Fire



Task 2

Research the history of bushfires in Australia. Record any facts and data you find in the table provided.

Task: Australian Bushfires of 2009

Create a **graph** clearly illustrating the total area burned (in hectares) for each incident during the 2009 bushfires.

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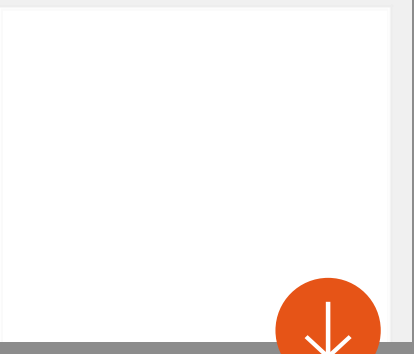
Task 3

Using the Britannica School map titled 'Australia Bushfires of 2009', create a graph illustrating the total area burned during the 2009 fires.

Task: After the Fire

Examine images depicting scenes during and after bushfires. Select and print an image, glue it below.

Brainstorm words that describe how people might be feeling during and after a bushfire.




Task 4

Examine images showing the aftermath of a bushfire. Brainstorm words that describe how the people might be feeling.

Task: Community Support

Create a table identifying the ways in which people can support a bushfire-affected community, both immediately after the event and in the long term.



Immediate Need	Community Support	Long-Term Need	Community Support

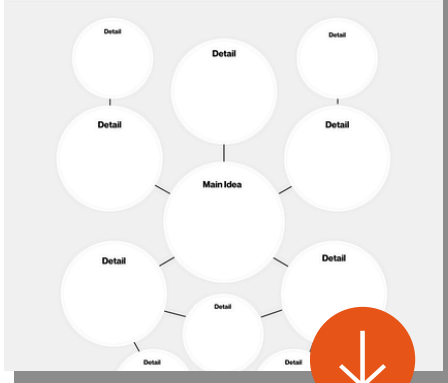


Task 5

Create a table identifying the ways in which people can support a bushfire-affected community, both immediately after the event and long term.

Task: Preventing Bushfires

Explore the different methods (past and present) that have been used to prevent future bushfires. Create a **Mind-Map** of ideas.

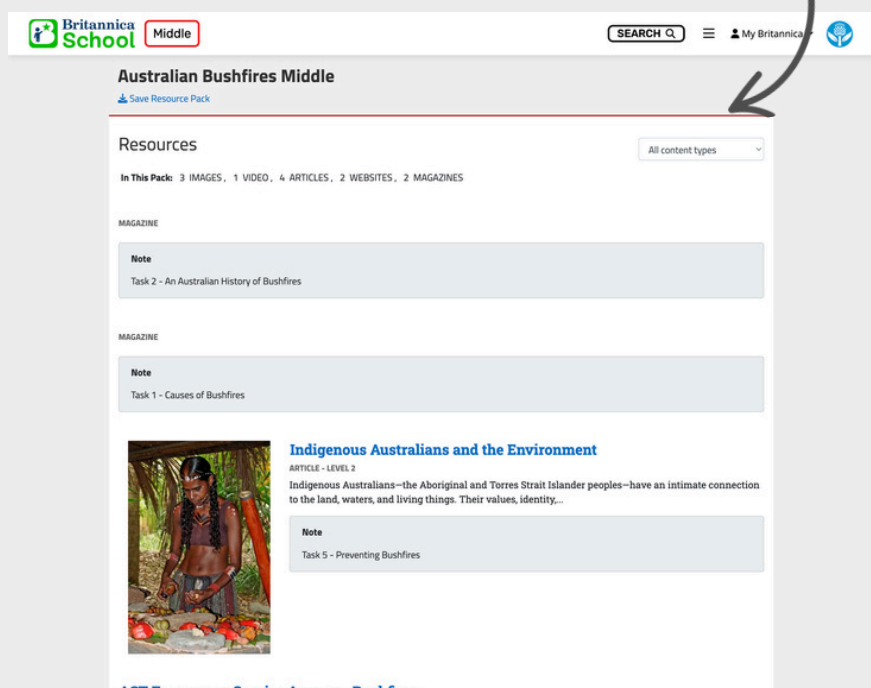



Task 6

Explore the different methods (past and present) that have been used to prevent future bushfires. Create a Mind-Map of ideas.

Support this activity with differentiated multimedia using **Britannica School resource packs.**

Teacher Tip:
Ideal for independent research tasks, inquiry-based learning and curiosity-led discovery!




Open 'Australian Bushfires' resource pack →

***To use the contents in this resource pack,** you will need access to Britannica School. Check if your school already has a subscription or start a free trial at elearn.eb.com/britannica-school/#free-trial

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A painting of a silhouette of a person holding a rifle, standing in a desert landscape under a cloudy sky. The person is holding a rifle and a shield. The background shows a desert with some trees and a cloudy sky.



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