

Teacher's Guide for APPLESEEDS, *Fire and Firefighters* Issue

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Firefighting Through the Ages (pg. 2-3)

- How did people fight fires long ago?
- Where did the first fire department started?
- Name four of the major causes of fire in the past.
- How did a bucket brigade work?
- There were four stages in the development of firefighting. Use the Share and Pair reading method. Ask the students to describe those stages.

Fighting Fire from Head to Toe (pg. 4-5)

- Divide the class into 8 groups. Ask each group to read about one piece of a fireman's equipment. Each group would then prepare a brief presentation to the rest of the class about their findings.

The Perfect Firestorm (pg. 6-8)

- What is a brushfire?
- What is a plume of smoke?
- Explain 3 things that caused the fires of 2003 to be so terrible.
- What remained of Carol Potter's cabin?
- What is an inferno?
- Explain how a person can be "a good steward" of their property.

At Home in the Sky: Fire-Lookout Family (pg. 9-11)

- Locate Coolwater Ridge on a large map of the USA.
- Explain how there can be hailstones in the summertime.
- What do these expressions mean? –downstrike and flare-up
- Describe a firefinder.
- Describe Jay's home.
- What wildlife does Jay observe?
- How does Jay spend his quiet time?
- Creative Writing:
 1. Keep a Journal about your days in the ranger station.
 2. Describe your life as a lookout.

"Big Ed" Pulaski (pg. 12-15)

- How did the fires get started in the summer of 1910?
- Why did the people panic?
- How do you know that the people panicked?
- Why was Pulaski gathering men?
- Why was he leading the men into a mineshaft?
- Explain why the men were laying face down on the ground.
- Pulaski said that he would shoot the next man who left the tunnel. Explain whether you think Pulaski should have said or done such a thing.
- Describe how Pulaski tried to protect the men inside the mineshaft.
- Explain why they could not drink the water.
- Why is Pulaski called a legendary hero?
- Making Connections: Explain why it is important to keep low to the ground when confronted with a lot of smoke.

Smokejumpers to the Rescue! (pg. 16-17)

- Why is the man's heart racing?
- Explain why the man starts counting.
- How does Withen get out of the tree?
- Describe what is provided in the 10 boxes.
- What is a firebreak?
- Explain why firebreaks are created.
- Explain why "boot camp" is grueling.
- Why does it take so long to pack a parachute?
- Describe why smokejumpers are so important.

How to Build a Safe Campfire (pg. 18-19)

Vocabulary: combustion, fuel, oxygen, minimize, risks, capability, tinder, kindling

- This article says that you need 4 things to build a fire. What are they?
- How do you minimize risks when building a fire?
- Describe how to safely put out a fire.

Prescription for a Burn (pg. 20-22)

Vocabulary: prescribe, understory, deadwood, underbrush

- Why do forests get a checkup?
- Why is fire as a natural process a good thing?
- Why does a forest get a prescription for a fire?
- Explain how a prescribed fire helps.
- What does a fire manager consider before setting a fire?

- There are 5 conditions listed for a burn prescription. Explain why each of the conditions is important.

Coyote's Gift of Fire (pg. 23-25)

- How did Coyote help the Native People in one of the stories?
- Describe how the Native People used fire.
- How did the Algonquian people make a canoe?
- In the past, why did the Native people burn the land?
- How do the Salish Kootenai use fire in a positive manner?
- Why are some scientists puzzled about forest fires?
- How have tribes used fire to hunt?
- Extending Literature:
 1. Read other Native stories about fire.
 2. Ask the students to create their own story about the beginning of fire, or how fire helped long ago.

For Men Only? NOT! (pg. 26-27)

Vocabulary: enslaved, pumper, bucket brigades

- Why was Molly Williams well known?
- What was a pumper?
- Describe a bucket brigade.
- How did Brenda Berkman help women?
- On page 27 kitchens are listed, as the number 1 places where fires begin. Explain why. Why would bedrooms be listed as number 2?

The Great Chicago Fire (pg. 28-30)

Vocabulary: drought, calamity, and parallel

- Why is National Fire Week in October?
- Why can a drought be very dangerous?
- Even after many buildings were destroyed by fire why did people continue to erect wooden structures?
- What went wrong on the evening of October 8, 1871?
- Describe how people tried to save themselves.
- Choose 1 of the following:
 1. Describe the disaster that happened to Chicago.
 2. Make a list of the damages that occurred during the Chicago fire.
- Explain the quote from the *Chicago Tribune*.

Sky High Eyes (pg. 31)

- What technology in the sky is available to spot fires on the ground?
- Explain how one of these high-tech systems helps fight fires.

An Interview with Firefighter Grant (pg. 32-33)

- How long did Firefighter Grant study to be a fireman?
- Describe a day of training for a firefighter.
- Why is continuous training important for a firefighter?
- Explain why a thermal camera is important.
- What should you do when you hear a smoke alarm in your home?
- If you are trapped in a room during a fire, what should you do?
- Making Connections:
 1. View a film about fire safety.
 2. Review fire safety rules for home and school.
 3. Visit a fire station.
 4. Create a list of questions and use them to interview a firefighter.
 5. Make fire safety poster to post throughout the school.
 6. Use the posters and prepared speeches to present to other classes within the school.