Learner Activity 1 Worksheet: **Fires: Good, Bad or just Ugly?**

To find the meanings of fire terms go to:  
[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/fire/glossary.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/fire/glossary.html)

**Exercise 1**  
**The Good**  
Go to this site:  
[http://smokeybear.com/good-bad.asp](http://smokeybear.com/good-bad.asp)  
Read the section on Prescribed Fire. Click on Learn more about prescribed fire to see the diagram.

Go to this site for an interactive presentation of a forest with and without natural fire (Flash required, you can download it at the site.)  

To explore the effects of fire on plants and animals, go to this site:  
[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/fire/plants.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/fire/plants.html)  
Scroll down to Coping with Fire and complete the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant</th>
<th>How It Adapted to Fire</th>
<th>How Fire Can Help the Plant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Larch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ponderosa Pine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrub Oak</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lodgepole Pine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Read the section on Fauna and Fire at the same site.

Go to this site:  
[http://whyfiles.org/shorties/058fire_ecorest/](http://whyfiles.org/shorties/058fire_ecorest/)  
Scroll down to the section called Back When and read the rest of the page, then answer the questions.

1. What were two problems that developed for the squirrels after fire suppression started about a century ago?
   
   A.  
   B.  

2. Explain the statement “Fire is as important to the ecosystem as rain or snow”
The Bad and the Ugly

Read about Wildfire at:
http://smokeybear.com/science.asp
In your own words, list the four factors that are causing more wildfires
1. _______________________________________________________________
2.  _______________________________________________________________
3.  _______________________________________________________________
4.  _______________________________________________________________

Go to this site:
http://smokeybear.com/good-bad.asp
Read about Wildfires. Click on Learn More and
Answer this question.

1. How has the location of house building affected wildfire risk?

Smokey Bear has a new friend called Reddy Squirrel. His message is that you can’t
prevent wildfire, but if you live close to forests you can be ready. Visit this site to
find out what can be done to save property from fire.
http://reddysquirrel.com/forest-fire-defense/index.htm

Try your hand at being a fire marshall in this activity.
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/teachers/activities/2908_fire_01.html

To check your answers go to:
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/teachers/activities/2908_fire.html#answer

For more information on animals and fire go to this site:
http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/animals/index.html
Select mammals, birds, etc. Find the common name of an animal then slide your
mouse to the left and click on the abbreviated scientific name. Then click on Fire
Effects and Use. For example go mammals, choose Elk (CEEL).
Now that you have read and studied wildfire, good fire, and bad fire, you need to make a decision. Fill out the chart below and then present your opinions about fire by answering the questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Advantages of fire</th>
<th>Disadvantages of fire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Are all forest fires bad?

2. What is the difference between a “good” fire and a “bad” fire?

3. When should a fire be allowed to burn?

4. How have people moving into what once were wild areas changed the way we fight fires?

5. Do you think Smokey’s old message of stopping all fires is still a good one?

6. How would you write Smokey’s new message?