

READING UNIT 2: WHO STARTED THE AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES?



Hundreds of Australians have been arrested for deliberately starting the devastating bushfires since September that have so far claimed 25 lives. *The Australian* newspaper reported that in the state of New South Wales (NSW) alone, 183 people have been charged or cautioned for bushfire-related offences since November, with 24 arrested for deliberately starting bushfires. While in Victoria 43 were charged, in Queensland 101 people have been arrested for deliberately starting fires, nearly 70% of whom were juveniles.

According to James Ogloff, the director of the Forensic Behavioral Science at Swinburne University, approximately 50% of the bushfires were started by arsonists. "They're interested in seeing fire, interested in setting fire and, quite often, the information around how fires burn and accelerate excites them," he told News Corp.

The University of Melbourne's Associate Professor Janet Stanley added that the arsonists were typically young males aged either 12 to 24 or 60 and older. "Generally they seem to have a background of disadvantage, a traumatic upbringing and often have endured neglect and abuse as a child," she said.

More than 25.5 million acres of land — an area the size of South Korea — have been razed by the bushfires in recent weeks. Insurers have also received 8,985 bushfire-related claims with a loss value of A the reason of fire and \$700 million (Rs 3,473 crore) in NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland since the Insurance Council declared a bushfire catastrophe on November 8. The council recorded the destruction of 1,838 residential properties. Add to this, the bushfires are believed to have spewed as much as two-thirds of Australia's annual CO₂ emissions in just the past three months. (THE TIMES OF INDI

DOMAIN: READING LITERACY	THEME: ENVIRONMENT	CLASS(ES): VIII- X EXPECTED TIME: 30 MINUTES TOTAL CREDIT: 10
DESCRIPTION OF ITEM: TEXT	LEARNING OUTCOME: The students will be able to know about the reason of fire and develop habit of reading newspaper. (AS PER NCERT)	

2.1 How many people were arrested in Queensland for starting bushfire in Australia?

- A. 183
- B. 24
- C. 101
- D. 43

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
Scenario	Public
Text format	Non continuous
Text type	Narration
Process	Locate information
Item format	Simple MCQ
Proficiency level	1b

2.2 It is in the news for last so many days that the many of the Australia’s forests were burnt to ashes. It is said that half of the fire was started by arsonist. What are the things which amuse an arsonist?

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FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
Scenario	Public
Text format	Non continuous
Text type	Narration
Process	Understand and locate
Item format	Closed constructed
Proficiency level	1a

2.3 The word used in the last paragraph 'spewed' means

- A. Destroyed
- B. Expelled
- C. increased
- D. Multiplied

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
Scenario	Public
Text format	Non continuous
Text type	Narration
Process	Integrate and interpret
Item format	Complex MCQ
Proficiency level	2

2.4 Who is Janet Stanley? What does he opine about arsonist?

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FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
Scenario	Public
Text format	Non continuous
Text type	Narration
Process	Understand and locate
Item format	Closed constructed
Proficiency level	1a

2.5 A kangaroo in the above picture appears to be baffled at the traumatic fire in Australia's forest. What are the harms being faced by its habitants and animals?

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FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
Scenario	Public
Text format	Non continuous
Text type	Narration
Process	Evaluate and reflect
Item format	Open constructed
Proficiency level	4

SCORING KEY

2.1 Full Credit: C-101

No Credit: Any other answer or missing

2.2 Full Credit: They're interested in seeing fire, interested in setting fire to how fires burn and accelerate excites them (any two)

Partial Credit: any one of the three

No Credit: any other or missing

2.3 Full Credit: B- Expelled

No Credit: any other or missing

2.4 Full Credit:

i. Associate Professor in the University of Melbourne

ii. Arsonists are typically young males aged either 12 to 24 or 60 and older, a background of disadvantage, a traumatic upbringing and often have endured neglect and abuse as a child

Partial Credit:

Any one of the two points or

A Professor, young males, poor background

No Credit: any other or missing

2.5 Full Credit:

Fire in Australian forest

Evacuation of people

Innumerable animals died

Irreparable Loss of flora and fauna

Problems for fresh water

Excess of Co2

Residential properties destroyed

Life disturbed

Partial Credit:

People fled

Left their homes

Support by government

No Credit

People not affected, only animals died

No property loss except forests

Government not worried

Fire due to climate change

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