

Fire in the Forest and on the Prairie

Meets Education Standards
Indiana Standard 4: The Living Environment 5.47 and 7.414
Illinois Learning Standards: Stage F – Science, 12B

Objective: To educate the student to the importance of using fire as a resource management tool.

After completing this lesson, the student should be able to:

- Understand the method of using prescribed burns for restoration and land management
- Identify the components of fire
- Understand what composes a fuel source
- Know what place fire has in a balanced ecosystem
- Be familiar with the adaptations of native prairie plants
- The effects of a burn on wildlife
- Know what happens during a controlled burn

Lesson Plan:

- I Fire Science
 - A. What fire needs to burn
 - B. Combustion chemistry
 - C. Experiments with fire
 - 1. Activities 1 & 2 www.iit.edu/~smile/ch96m3.html
- II Animals and Plants on the Prairies
 - www.bellmuseum.org/distancelearning/prairie/build/
- III Resource Management through Controlled Burns
 - A. History of controlled burns
 - B. Adaptations of native species
 - 1. Plant adaptations
 - 2. Animal adaptations
 - C. Environmental Impact of a Controlled burn
 - 1. Plant
 - 2. Wildlife
 - 3. Air
 - 4. Soil and water

IV Controlled Burn Management

1. Pre-burn preparation
2. During the burn
3. Post-burn
4. Emergency procedures
5. Burn crew safety
6. www.efieldtrips.org/fire Download worksheet before viewing
and
www.nps.gov/fire/utility/media/uti_casestudy_BAER.cfm

V Self Test

IV Just For Fun

1. www.smokeybear.com
2. Movie - Always, Rated PG, Starring Richard Dreyfuss, Holly Hunter, 1989.