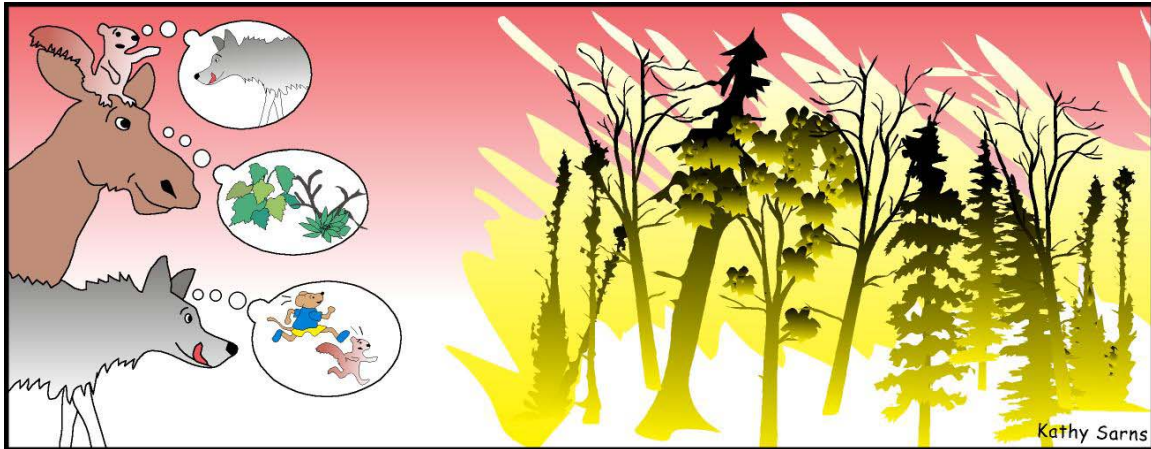


LOOKING AT FIRE IN THE ECOSYSTEM



Grade Level: 2-8

Alaska State Content Standards: SA15, LA4

Subject: Science, Language Arts

Skills: Description, Generalization

Duration: 1 class period

Group Size: individual

Setting: indoors

OBJECTIVE

Students will describe the effects of boreal forest or tundra fires on people and wildlife.

TEACHING STRATEGY

In this writing activity students consider the effects of fire through the eyes of people, wildlife, and plants.

MATERIALS

- Paper and pencil
- Effects of Fire on Wildlife Population

TEACHER BACKGROUND

Refer to the background information section of Unit II.

PROCEDURE

1. Discuss the positive and negative effects of fire and how they relate to wildlife and people.
2. Tell students they will be looking at a fire from a viewpoint different than their own. Read the list of roles below and ask students to brainstorm any others they would like to add.

Tundra List

Look at the effects of fire through the eyes of a

- insect
- fox
- ptarmigan
- nesting bird
- caribou
- wolf
- lichen
- blueberry
- mineral
- pilot
- firefighter
- home owner
- trapper

(For more ideas go to the Tundra *Alaska Ecology Cards*)

Forest List

Look at the effects of fire through the eyes of a insect

- fox
- spruce hen
- nesting bird
- moose
- beaver
- tree
- blueberry
- mineral
- pilot
- firefighter
- trapper
- home owner

(For more ideas go to the Boreal Forest *Alaska Ecology Cards*)

3. Assign a role on the list to each student (repeat the roles, if necessary). Place students in groups of 3.
4. Show and discuss pictures of burned sites to the class to help them visualize a burn scene. As a class have students close their eyes for 2-3 minutes imagining a burn site and looking at the effects of the fire with their assigned role in mind.
5. Encourage students to discuss, within their groups, how they would view the effects of fire from the perspective of their assigned role. Have students write a short essay describing the viewpoint.
6. Have the groups share their viewpoints with the class. The essays can be read aloud or displayed on the wall

EVALUATION

Students draw pictures of a burn site through the eyes of their assigned role and share with the class.

EXTENSION

Ask a firefighter to visit the class and describe his or her experience with fire.