USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Core | 617 feet deep

Mt. Loga
This ice
from

CENTRAL

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Meet Dr. Goodrick!

Photo: Babs McDonald

Meet Dr. Goodrick!

Table of Contents

Glossary words are in **bold**.

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http://www.naturalinquirer.org

USDA   FOREST SERVICE   CRADLE OF FORESTRY IN AMERICA   The University of Georgia

This is Dr. Scott Goodrick.

Photo: Babs McDonald

Dr. Goodrick is a scientist who studies **weather** and **wildfires**.

Dark clouds bring stormy weather.

A tree burns in a wildfire.

Dr. Goodrick liked to watch nature videos when he was young. They made him **curious** about the weather.

This student is watching a nature video.

Dr. Goodrick enjoys **solving** puzzles.

This student enjoys solving puzzles too.

Dr. Goodrick likes to ask questions about our world.

These students learn about our world. They ask the forest ranger questions.

Dr. Goodrick asked a question about wildfires that might happen in the **future**.
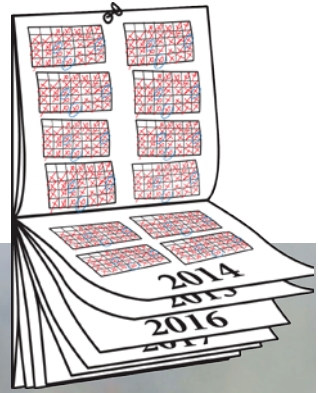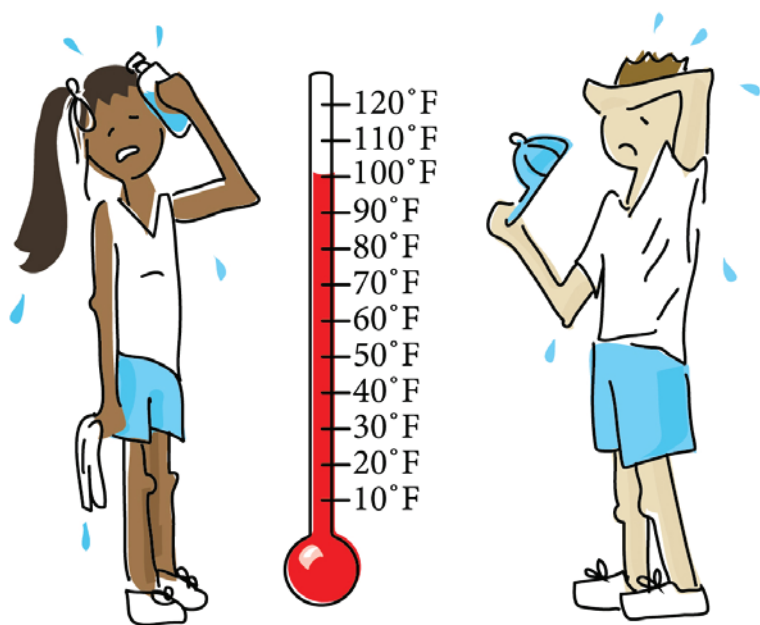

Photo: Forest Service

2014
2015
2016
2017

He knew that wildfires start more easily
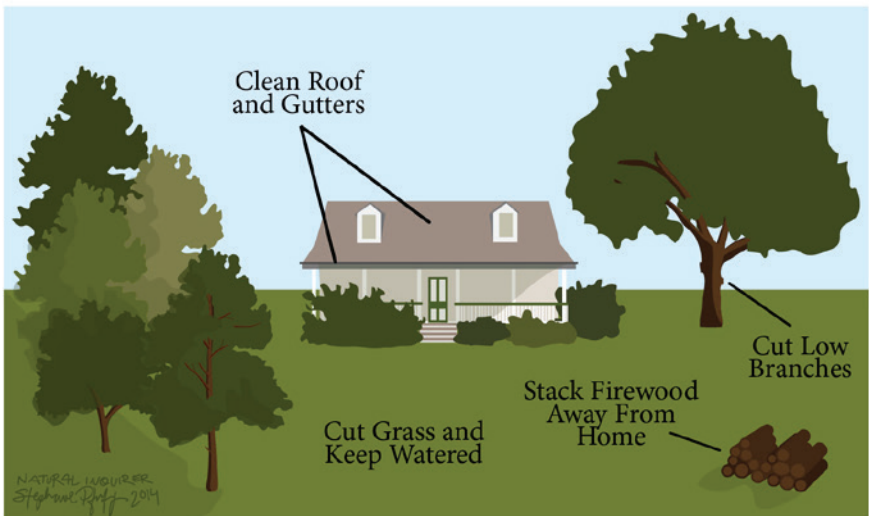when it is hot.

Dr. Goodrick thought about the weather. If the weather changes in the future and becomes hotter, wildfires might happen more often.

Photo: Gila National Forest

Dr. Goodrick knew that people can take action now to prepare for the future.

People can take action now to prepare for the future. People can protect their homes from future wildfires.

Dr. Goodrick used a computer to answer his question.

Dr. Goodrick discovered that if the weather becomes hotter in the future, then more wildfires may happen. The wildfires may happen in the **spring**, **summer**, and **autumn**.
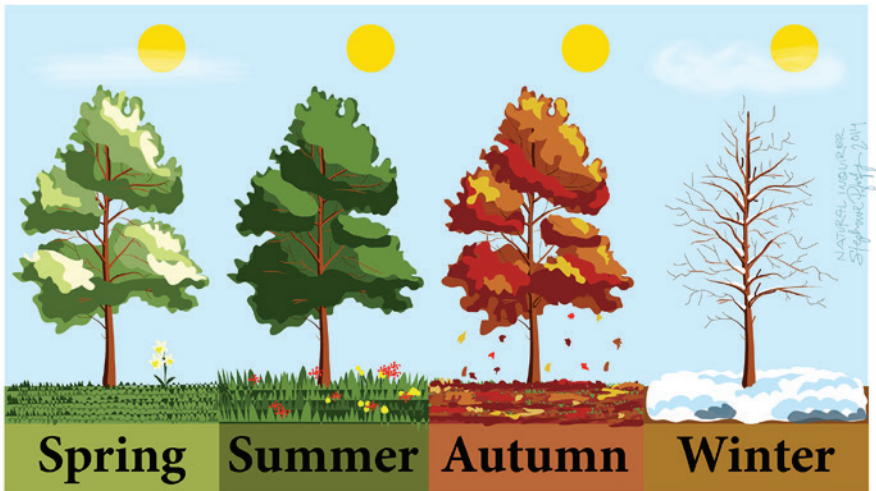
Scientists ask and answer questions about the future. What is one question that you have about the future?

Critical Thinking Questions:

- Why is it important to study wildfires?

- What is one question you would like to ask about wildfires?

- Dr. Goodrick likes to ask questions. Why do you think it is important to ask questions?

Glossary:

curious (**kyoŏr**-ē-əs): Eager to find out about things.

autumn (ô təm): The season between summer and winter.

future (**fyü**-chər): A time that is going to happen. The opposite of past.

spring (**spriŋ**): The season between winter and summer.

solve (**sôlv**): To find the correct answer to.

summer (**sə**-mər): The season between spring and fall.

weather (**we**-thər): The condition of the air at a certain place and time, such as the temperature and whether or not it is raining.

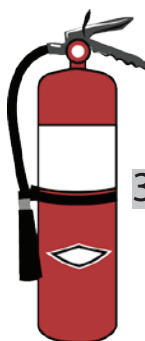wildfire (**wī(-ə)ld**-fī(-ə)r): An uncontrolled outdoor fire.

Try This!

Here are some items or places that might be useful to you if there is a fire in your home or school. Identify each item or place and tell how it would be useful if there is a fire. Look around your classroom or home and make a plan for what you would do if a fire happened.
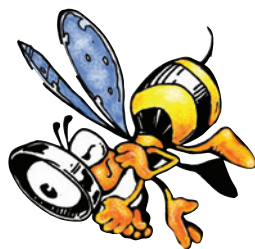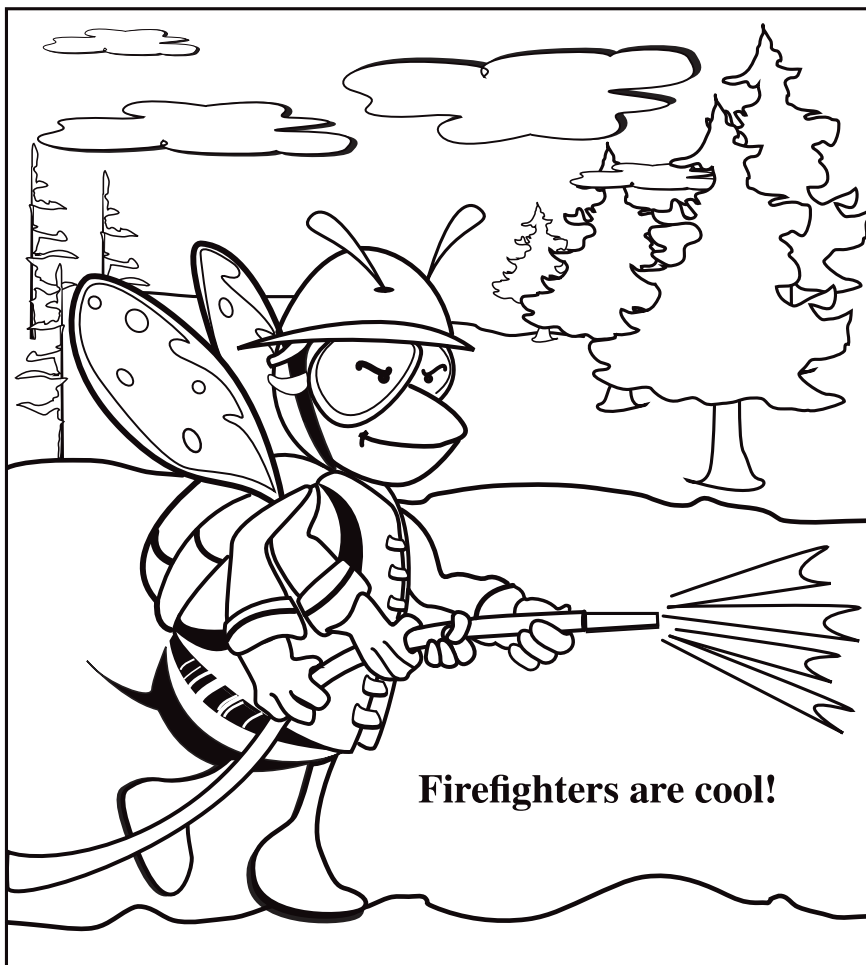
1
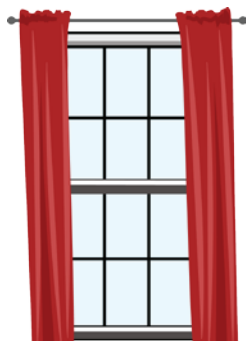
2

3

4

On a separate sheet of paper, write the name of the item and a sentence telling how each item would be useful if there is a fire.

Color the Firefighter Bee.

Firefighters are cool!

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Background Information: Wildfires are becoming more common as the climate changes. If the climate continues to warm, wildfires might happen even more frequently. In this reader, students learn that scientists ask and answer questions about the future. When people have an idea of what might happen in the future, they can take action now. People can protect their homes from wildfires. Dr. Goodrick found that wildfires may happen slightly more in the future. He found that the wildfire season may be extended into the spring and autumn. For more information about Dr. Goodrick's research, read "Fire and Water" in the *Natural IQ* Southern United States Climate Change edition, http://www.naturalinqurier.org.

Be a Possibility Possum

Scientists make things possible;
They ask and answer questions.
You can make things possible
If you follow these suggestions.

Observe your world and wonder;
Ask how, what, why, and who?
Ask and answer questions
To make things possible for you.

Wonder is a good thing;
It is very plain to see.
When I ask and answer questions,
I make things possible for me.