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**.

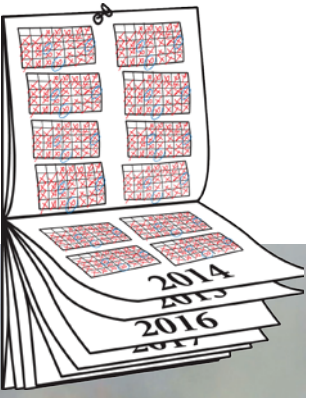
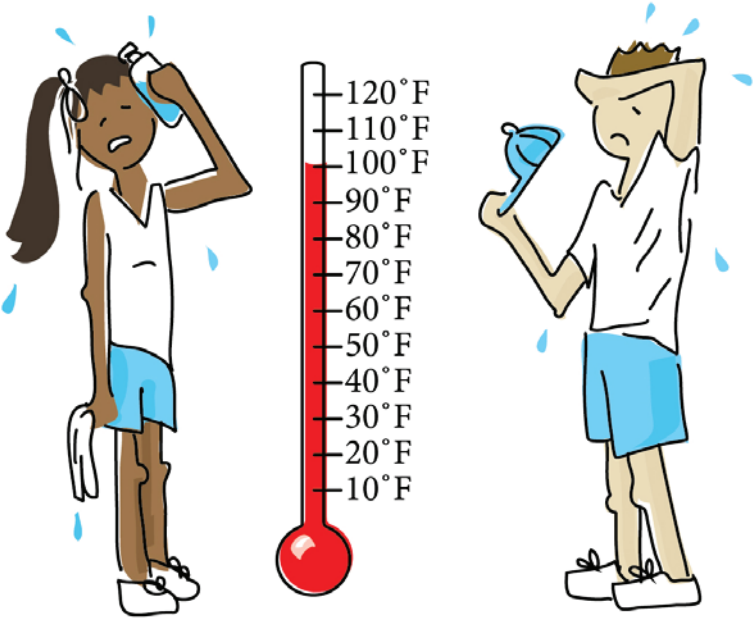


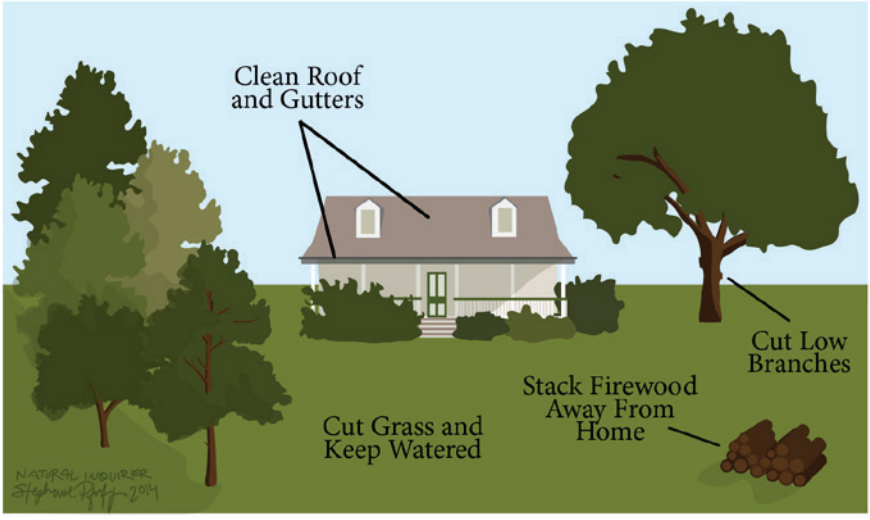
Photo: Forest Service

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.

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

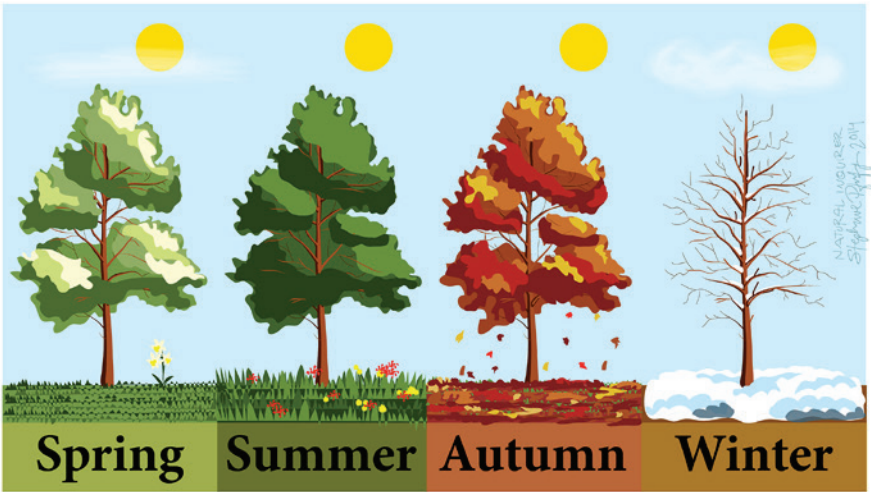


People can take action now to prepare for the future. People can protect their homes from future wildfires.

Dr. Goodrick used a computer to answer his question.

Photo: Babs McDonald

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 (**s**ə-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.