



# A GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Grades 2 & 3

This picture book shares the connection between all living things and fire. Readers will grasp that fire is basic and powerful, that it has the capability to both destroy and create, and that everything they know in the world has evolved with fire.

By learning the story of fire and how it has changed this planet, this book also addresses the question: Can people adapt to an increasingly fire-prone environment? This answer is: Yes, because they always have. *Fire Shapes the World* will allow children to explore their connection to this most elemental agent of change

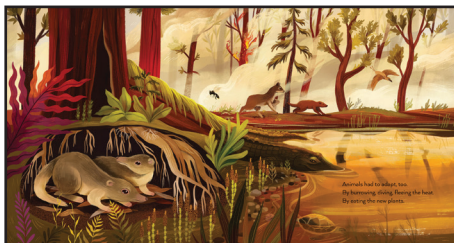
## Themes

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.RL.2

- Adaptability
- Change
- Fire Ecology
- Humans and Nature
- Resilience
- Wonder
- Habitats

## Ecology

1. Find the two spreads that show the world changing because of fire. What kinds of plants and animals do you see in each habitat? *NGSS 2-LS4-1*



4. Find the image with the biologist in the burned forest. Draw and label a cause-and-effect illustration that shows how the beetle and woodpecker are connected. How are their life cycles the same? *NGSS 3-LS1-1*



5. Read the text on the page showing prehistoric people around a fire. What does the text explicitly say? What can readers infer from the text and images? *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.RI.1*



2. Using the same spreads, discuss why the animals and plants change across pages. *NGSS3-LS3-2, NGSS 3-LS4-3*

3. Fire can bring slow and fast changes to the earth. Find evidence in the text and illustrations for both types of change. *NGSS 2-ESS1-1*

# Text Analysis

1. Is this book fiction or nonfiction? How do we know?

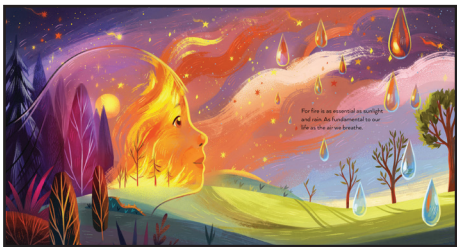
*CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.10*

2. What can we learn about fire from the front cover?

*CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7*

3. Compare these illustrations: the town responding to a wildfire and the girl in an imaginary world. What feelings do these images give the reader?

*CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7*



4. Find the picture of the volcano and snow. Is this real? What is this illustration trying to show the reader?

*CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7*



5. Study the illustration showing four different locations. What is happening in them? Why do you think the illustrator chose to create this spread?

*CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7*



# Current Connections

1. In your own words, why is fire essential? What evidence from the text supports your thinking?

2. How does the author use the words *past* and *present*?

*CAH-SS AS-CST.2*

3. Compare and contrast how people used fire in the past with how they use it today.

*CAH-SS AS-CST.3*

4. Study the illustration showing four different locations. Name the human and natural characteristics of each part of this image. Discuss how fire has affected each scene.

*CAH-SS AS-HI.2*



5. After a fire burns homes and towns, some people rebuild, while others relocate to a less fire-prone location. Discuss the merits of each choice. Which would you choose?

*NGSS3-LS4-4, CCSS.ELA-W.2.1*

6. Find the text “It is a campfire, now cool and damp.” Why are the mother and daughter putting out the fire?





7. Indigenous people use fire as a land management tool. Compare and contrast the image of the historical fire ignition with the modern ignition. *NGSS 5-ESS3-1, CAH-SS AS-CST.3, CAH-SS3.3.2*



## Activities

1. Complete this prediction sentence: People will continue living with fire by \_\_\_\_\_. *NGSS 3-LS1-1*
2. Open the current North American fire map at <https://fire.airnow.gov/>. How is your community being affected by fire right now? Where is the closest fire?
3. Draw a picture (from the book or your own) that shows the book's main idea, using details to show your evidence. *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.4*
4. Before reading the book, discuss with a partner how you think fire shapes the world. Draw and label a picture to show your ideas. After reading the book, repeat the discussion and drawing activity. *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1*
5. After reading the back matter, draw and label a picture of a house or town that is adapted to fire. *NGSS 4-ESS3-2*

## Academic Vocabulary

adaptation	ritual
change	survival
essential	transform
fundamental	

## Content Domain Vocabulary

cosmic	oxygen
element	smolder
ignite	sprout
larvae	tend



## Author

This guide was written by Joanna Cooke, author of *Fire Shapes the World*. For many years, she taught the natural and cultural history of Yosemite National Park to visiting students. Joanna holds a master's degree in education and works as a substitute teacher for elementary classrooms. Her other books include *Call Me Floy* and *The Sequoia Lives On*.



*Fire Shapes the World* can be found wherever books are sold.  
All purchases directly support Yosemite National Park.