

## 41. *Fire Vocabulary Match-up*

495



Fire in the Rio Grande Bosque

- Description:** Students find the classmate who has the right definition to match their vocabulary word in a simple game.
- Objective:** Students will learn new vocabulary related to fire ecology.
- Materials:** Copies of the attached vocabulary words and definitions, cut into cards and laminated if possible.
- Procedure:**
1. Split the class into two groups. There are 30 individual cards (15 words); remove pairs of words if needed.
  2. Hand out the definition cards to one group and the vocabulary cards to the second group, making sure the cards are well shuffled.
  3. Instruct students to find their partners or the student who has the definition to match their vocabulary word or vice versa.
  4. Once students have found their match, assemble the group into a circle (if possible).
  5. Allow student pairs to take turns presenting their word and definition to the rest of the class. Take time to answer any questions from the students and draw pictures or diagrams on the chalkboard to help illustrate the term and its meaning.
  6. Create a list of the words on the board as students make their presentation.
  7. Instruct students to copy the list down in their notebooks with the best definition for each term that they can remember.

### 41. *Fire Vocabulary Match-up*

**Grades:** 4–12

**Time:** Preparation time 30 minutes; activity time 30–45 minutes

**Subjects:** science

**Terms:** *ecological disturbance, ecological succession, fire adaptation, fire dependence, fire ecology, fire intensity, fire regime, fire scars, fire severity, fire triangle, food web, habitat, natural fires, wildfires, fire break*



**Key:**

- crown fire*—high-severity fire that burns whole trees, moving from tops of trees to other trees
- fire adaptation*—a characteristic that enhances the ability of an organism to survive natural fires
- fire break (fuel break)*—a natural or man-made barrier that lacks sufficient fuel to maintain a fire
- fire dependence*—the concept that fire is essential to many plant and animal communities
- fire ecology*—a branch of ecology that studies the origin of wildland fire and its relationship to the ecosystem
- fire history*—a measure of how often a fire occurs in a given geographic location
- fire intensity*—a measurement of heat generated by a fire
- fire regime*—the different role fire plays in different ecosystems including the frequency, predictability, intensity and season of fire
- fire scar*—a mark on a tree produced by a layer of charcoal that is then enveloped by a layer of new growth
- fire severity*—a measure of the degree to which a fire alters a given site
- fire triangle*—the three elements needed to start and maintain a fire: heat, fuel and oxygen
- fuel ladder*—dry, dead or volatile plants of different heights that carry fire up to tops of trees
- ground fire*—low-severity fire that burns quickly across the ground
- prescribed burn/prescribed fire*—a fire intentionally set under known conditions of fuel, weather and topography to achieve a specific management goal
- wildfires (wildland fire)*—any non-structural fire (not in buildings) other than a prescribed fire, that occurs in a forest or other wildland area

Thanks to the Student Ecology Research Program. January 2005. New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science.



**crown fire**

High-severity fire; fire that burns whole trees, moving from tops of trees to other trees



**fire adaptation**

A characteristic that enhances the ability of an organism to survive natural fires



**fire break  
(fuel break)**

A natural or man-made barrier that lacks sufficient fuel to maintain a fire



## **fire dependence**

The concept that fire is essential to many plant and animal communities



## **fire ecology**

A branch of ecology that studies the origin of wildland fire and its relationship to the ecosystem



## **fire history**

A measure of how often a fire occurs in a given geographic location



**fire intensity**

A measurement of heat generated by a fire



**fire regime**

The different role fire plays in different ecosystems, including the frequency, predictability, intensity and season of fire



**fire scar**

A mark on a tree produced by a layer of charcoal that is then enveloped by a layer of new growth



**fire severity**

A measure of the degree to which a fire alters a given site



**fire triangle**

The three elements needed to start and maintain a fire: heat, fuel and oxygen



**fuel ladder**

Dry, dead or volatile plants of different heights that carry fire up to tops of trees



**ground fire**

Low-severity fire that burns quickly across the ground



**prescribed burn/  
prescribed fire**

A fire intentionally set under known conditions of fuel, weather and topography to achieve a specific management goal



**wildfire**

Any non-structural fire (not in buildings) other than a prescribed fire, that occurs in a forest or other wildland area