

# BUSH-FIRE IN VICTORIA'S PARKS

## BEFORE THE FIRE

BORN TO EXPLORE



Rangers and fire-fighters regularly burn sections of healthy bushland. This is important to maintain the ecology of our parks as well as for the safety of humans visiting and living near them.

Aboriginal people used fire as an important survival tool. Fire was used for a variety of purposes, including for warmth and cooking. Fire was also used for hunting purposes to encourage grassland development and increase animal populations.

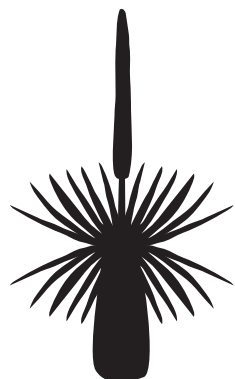


A bushfire is approaching this healthy forest? Can you spot fourteen different animals and areas for them to hide from the fire?

Colour in the animals that you think will hide, hop, run or fly away.

There are many different types of plants in this picture. Do you think there will be more or less plants as the bushland recovers after the fire?

Find and colour in available food for the echidna, wombat and the native mouse before the fire arrives.



Answers: 1. Kangaroo, 2. Possum, 3. Native Mouse, 4. Platypus, 5. Wombat, 6. Cockatoo, 7. Spider, 8. Echidna, 9. Ants, 10. Snake, 11. Flying Fox (bat), 12. Skinks x 2, 13. Bearded Dragon, 14. Yabby, 15. Can you find the fifteenth animal?



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## AFTER THE FIRE

BORN TO EXPLORE



THE FIRE BURNT THROUGH THIS LANDSCAPE ONLY A FEW WEEKS AGO, HOWEVER PLANTS ARE ALREADY GROWING BACK, PROVIDING FRESH GROWTH AND FOOD FOR THE ANIMALS.

Colour in the epicormic shoots. Epicormic shoots are small bright green leaves that grow from beneath the bark of burnt eucalypt trees. As they grow they provide energy to help the tree recover after fire.

Colour in the new seedlings and plants growing on the ground.

Which landscape is more colourful? Before or after the fire?

Can you spot the possum and its new hiding spot? Fire can help to create new homes for animals in hollow trees and logs. This possum has found a new home in a burnt out area of the tree.

The homes of some animals are burnt during a fire, for some the lack of shelter after fire makes it harder to hide from predators like Wedge Tailed Eagles, foxes and dingoes.



What changes can you notice since the fire has passed? Can you spot changes to the:

- ☐ GRASS TREES
- ☐ SEED PODS
- ☐ EUCALYPT TREES
- ☐ GROUND COVER

If you look closely, you will notice the:

- ☐ GRASS TREES HAVE FLOWERED
- ☐ SEED PODS HAVE OPENED
- ☐ FRESH PLANT GROWTH
- ☐ FRESH GROUND COVER

These changes mean an increase in the amount of grasses and young plants and provides lots of healthy food



Now that the fire has passed, can you find food for the echidna, wombat and native mouse? Is there more or less food after the fire for the animals in the bush?