



Hot topics

Headline: The UK has already had more wildfire this year than any year on record.



The UK has been hit by nearly a hundred large wildfires this year, making it the worst year on record already.

Researchers say that the figures were evidence that climate change had already heightened the risk of wildfire in the UK.

Reporter

Read out newspaper headline.

Questions

Ask every character:

- How does the wildfire affect you?

Think who would be best to answer these questions:

- How does it make you feel?
- What do you think should be done about it?

Try thinking of at least 2 more questions you can ask.



Amanda

Leads the Welsh Fire and Rescue Service

- Keen to reassure the population that her fire service is more than able to suppress these fires and save property and lives.
- Feels the answer to stopping these wildfires is to tackle the reasons why people start accidental and deliberate wildfire.



Malcom

Advises Welsh Government on Climate Change

- Frustrated that his advice hasn't been listened to properly.
- Feels the answer to stopping this happening is to tackle climate change.



Meinir

Produces a famous wildlife show

- Sees this as an opportunity to campaign for more climate change measures.
- Planning a programme on the effects of wildfire on local wildlife.



Gethin

First Minister for Wales

- Feels under a lot of scrutiny over this reoccurring problem.
- Planning to hold a high-level task group to find the best way to stop this issue in future.



Headline: Llangollen wildfire continues to tie up valuable resources.



North Wales Fire and Rescue Service continues to impress upon communities the importance of being extra careful and to stop and consider the consequences of grass fires during the current heatwave.

Reporter

Read out newspaper headline.

Questions

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Jane

On holiday from Manchester

- Annoyed that roads are closed so she can't take her family to see the wildfire as she thinks it would be exciting for them.
- As some of the local tourist attractions are closed while the wildfire is being tackled, Jane feels the holiday is a failure and wants her money back.



Guto

A local sheep farmer

- Worried for the safety of tourists trying to cross some of his fields to see the wildfire.
- Concerned that the wildfire might spread to his land and affect his animals and business.



Dafydd

Drives a train for the local steam train business

- Concerned that the wildfire is putting off tourists, resulting in fewer customers.
- Wondering if his job will be safe if the wildfire damages the rail tracks.



Ffion

A retired firefighter called in to help

- Enjoying being back to firefighting and feeling like a valuable member of the community.
- Physically tired from working long hours and a bit concerned that she may not be doing enough to help.



Headline: Australia's environment minister says up to 30% of koalas killed in New South Wales mid-north coast fires.



The state's mid-north coast is home to a significant number of Australia's koalas, with an estimated population of between 15,000 to 28,000. On Friday, the federal environment minister, Sussan Ley, said up to 30% of the koalas in the region had been killed, because "up to 30% of their habitat has been destroyed".

Reporter

Read out newspaper headline.

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Sussan

Environment Minister

- Feels under a lot of pressure as the world's media is focussed on the Australian wildfires.
- Spending very little time with her family due to her work.
- Worried about the future of her job if she is judged badly in the way she deals with the disaster.



James

A spokesperson for the NSW Nature Conservation Council

- Overwhelmed by the devastation caused by the wildfires.
- Concerned for the wildlife populations in the country.
- Wondering about the best way to try to stop this ever happening on this scale again.



Shelagh

Runs a rescue centre for Koalas

- Very upset at the state of the animals being brought into her rescue centre.
- Worried that she hasn't got enough staff and resources to keep going under the number of animals being brought to her.
- Concerned that the wildfires might turn in the direction of the rescue centre. How can she protect all the rescued koalas?



Jack

A volunteer firefighter

- Furious with having to deal with a deliberately started wildfire in his local area.
- Tired and hungry as he has been working 24 hours straight with hardly a break.
- Worried that his day to day job might not be kept open for him while he volunteers.



Headline: Wildfires take hold on mountainsides and in forestry.



Firefighters are at the scene of several large wildfires across the South Wales Valleys. Crews are in attendance at a mountain fire above Heath Terrace in Ynyshir. They have also been called to a large forestry fire between Maesteg and Port Talbot.

Reporter

Read out newspaper headline.

Questions

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Lloyd

Volunteers for mountain rescue and supported the firefighters

- Frustrated that yet another wildfire has been started in the area. It happens every year.
- Worried that he doesn't have enough refreshments for the firefighters, to keep them going.
- Glad that he is able to support the effort to suppress the wildfire.



Pat

A local member of the community whose house backs on to the mountain

- Scared about the fire reaching the house.
- Worried about losing all her possessions and where she would live if the fire gets too close.
- Panicked about having to move away from the community she grew up in.



Andy

Works for Natural Resources Wales in forestry

- Concerned for the safety of the community.
- Wondering if he is using the best measures to stop wildfire starting and spreading.
- Worried about the cost of replanting the trees burnt by the wildfire.



Cathy

Uses the area to provide health and well-being group walks for local people

- Only just started in her job and wonders how this will affect her.
- Worried that she will have to find a new area to use for her group walks.
- Sad not to be able to get her group out into the local woods as they are probably feeling very stressed now.

