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The Forest Fires of California



The Forest Fires of California



Dryness and fire - both struck a familiar note in Tara's mind. If you want to burn something, it needs to be completely dry. "So,

there's the connection," concluded Tara. No doubt, dry leaves and debris in the forests catch fire easily, just like in California - a state in the USA where Hollywood lies. Tara often dreamed of going to California and Hollywood, the land of magnificent movies, but it's also in the news for its raging forest fires that are nearly impossible to extinguish. California has always been prone to forest fires due to its geographical location. Rains come only during the winter months, followed by a dry and hot summer.

Hi!
I am Tara





Daniel Swain

But over the past century, the temperature in California has gone up by three degrees Fahrenheit. This extra warm air sucks out moisture from the soil and plants, causing trees and grasslands to become dry and act as fuel for fire. Tara had read about **Daniel Swain**, a climate scientist at the University of California. According to him, this

vegetation-drying effect, along with every degree of warming, causes the plants to lose their water more efficiently today than they did before climate change inched up California's temperatures.

Tara was lost in her dreamland of Hollywood stars, Rodeo Drive, Los Angeles suburbs with beautiful flowers, and the blue Pacific Ocean. She wondered if they would still be as captivating if climate change continued to burn down its forests.



New Words

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| 1. Debris - pieces from something that has been destroyed | 2. Raging - extreme or severe | 3. Extinguish - to cause something to stop burning |
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Find other new and interesting words for each other, and write their meanings in your notebooks.

Comprehension

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. How do forests catch fire? | 5. Why are plants losing moisture more efficiently than before? |
| 2. Where is Hollywood situated? | 6. What did Tara wish to see during her visit to California? |
| 3. Temperature in California has gone up by how many degrees? | |
| 4. Who is Daniel Swain? | |

Take turns to make more questions like these above for each other and answer them.

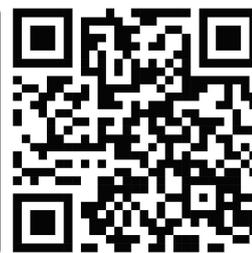
Prompts Pair up

1. Locate California on an atlas with the help of your partner.
2. **Climate Change Charades**
Play a game of charades related to the story about California forest fires and climate change.
Each child should think of a word or phrase related to the story, such as "forest fire," "climate change," "California," or "dry vegetation."
One child will act out the word or

phrase without speaking, while the other child tries to guess what it is. After a few rounds, switch roles so that both children have a chance to act and guess.

Discuss the different words and phrases you choose and how they relate to the story and the problem of forest fires.

Watch the video on the forest fires of California using the QR code.



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