

BASTROP REPLANT THE PARK



Wildfire in the Pines

Objectives: Students will (1) understand and define contributing factors to the historic wildfire season of 2011, (2) identify the significance of fire in certain ecosystems

TEKS: Environmental Systems 8A, 9A
Biology 11D, 12F

Materials::

From Texas Forest Service: *Nearly 1.5 Million Trees Expected to Die*

From Lost Pines Recovery Team: *Trees & Forests*

Lost Pines of Bastrop County

Optional: *Historic Fire Season Ends in Texas*

Procedure: Pass out copies or articles, or display for students to read.

Briefly discuss these statistics of the 2012 fire season, courtesy of the Texas Forest Service:

2011 fire season statistics (Nov. 15, 2010-Oct. 31, 2011):

30,547 fires

3,993,716 acres

39,413 homes saved

2,946 homes destroyed

13,027 other structures saved

2,792 other structures destroyed

Ask students to consider the following questions:

1. Think back to 2011. What were some of the factors that contributed to high fire danger in Texas?
2. Name some reasons why loblolly pine trees and other trees need fire in order to survive.
3. Since the loblolly pine is the major tree type found in Bastrop State Park, could you argue that fire is a natural part of the ecosystem? Why or why not?

4. How would Bastrop State Park be different with or without fire?
5. Do you think Bastrop State Park ruined by the fire? Why or why not?
6. What does Bastrop State Park look like now? What might it look like in 5 years?
In 15? In 50? Why?

Break students into groups and ask them to brainstorm the next steps for reforesting the park.