

Activity 4 - Effect of bonfires on people/animals/surroundings

- Hold up pictures of animals, wildlife, old people, garden, play area, parkland, young children, sheds... How might each of these be affected by a bonfire which is not carefully planned and supervised? Discuss. (Animals get scared; wildlife such as small animals, insects, flowers may be killed off or their homes destroyed; parkland, play areas, gardens may be damaged or destroyed; sheds could catch on fire if too close; young children who aren't supervised could get injured).

- Read out this bonfire fact:

One average sized bonfire will weigh 1 ton and when burnt produce will produce about 2 tons of CO₂ (carbon dioxide).

If I were to get in my car I would have to drive 7000 miles which is the same as from here to America and home again to produce the same amount of CO₂ (carbon dioxide) as our bonfire does!

- Discuss how these issues will affect our environment and health (e.g. loss of wildlife in area, damaged surroundings, asthma). What conclusions may we draw from this about why and how we organise bonfire events (if possible join in with an organised event rather than have individual bonfires)?
- Choose to be someone/something potentially affected by a bonfire (e.g. hedgehog, child, old person) and discuss/write how you feel about bonfires and how they affect you in the character of that person/animal.
- Or - Write a letter complaining to the council/ neighbour/newspaper about how a bonfire affected you or your environment.
- Or - Write a diary entry explaining how a bonfire has affected you.

Resources

Pictures of animals, surroundings etc. affected by bonfires (not provided).

Literacy links

- En1 2 Listening
- 3 Group discussion and interaction
- En3 1 Composition
- 6 Standard English
- 9 Range of purpose: to imagine and explore feelings
- 12 Range of forms of writing



WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE