

## Geography Alive: Bushfire hazards in Australia (Lesson 2)

Lesson 2: The conditions under which bushfires occur		
<p><b>Content focus:</b></p> <p>In this lesson students study the conditions under which bushfires occur. Of particular interest is the fuel needed to sustain a blaze and the sources of ignition. Students also have an opportunity to examine the manner in which bushfires move across the landscape.</p>		<p><b>Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Worksheet 2: Natural hazards and disasters (Bushfires)</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Key inquiry questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What types of material fuels bushfires?</li> <li>• What are main sources of bushfire ignition?</li> <li>• What are the factors that determine the rate at which a bushfire spreads?</li> <li>• How does topography affect the speed at which a fire moves?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes:</b></p> <p><i>A student:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explains the role of fuel and ignition in a bushfire</li> <li>• identifies the factors that affect the rate at which bushfires occur and spread.</li> <li>• recognises the principal causes of bushfires.</li> <li>• describes the manner in which bushfires move across the landscape.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lesson sequence:</b></p> <p><b>Step 1:</b> Class discussion focusing the conditions under which bushfires occur. For example: Under what type of weather conditions are bushfires likely to occur? Why is low humidity and wind important contributing factors? What is the purpose of 'hazard reduction' burns? How do bushfires start? What is the main source of ignition?</p> <p><b>Step 2:</b> Students study the text and the annotated illustrations on Worksheet 2 and complete Activities 1–5.</p> <p>They respond to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the conditions under which bushfire are most likely to occur?</li> <li>• What are the factors affecting the spread of bushfires?</li> <li>• What is the relationship between slope and the speed of bushfires?</li> <li>• What are the principal causes of bushfires?</li> <li>• How do bushfires spread?</li> </ul> <p><b>Stage 3:</b> Use questioning to determine level of student understanding.</p>