

# Washita Battlefield

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site



## Junior Wildland Firefighter Activity Book

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Hi! I am Ranger Harry!

Did you know that park rangers can also be wildland firefighters?

Join me as we explore what it takes to be a wildland firefighter and protect resources on federal lands.



To earn your Junior Wildland Firefighter badge you must complete:

Age	Number of activities needed
6 and younger	5
7 and older	6



What if I run out of time?

Do not worry! You can finish your booklet at home and send it to us. We will return it to you with your badge. Do not forget to include your name and mailing address!  
Mail your booklet to us at:

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site  
18555 Highway 47A, Ste A  
Cheyenne, OK 73628

# Activity 1: Wildland Fire Basics



Fire is a natural process. It has also been man-made and used as a tool to shape the plains for thousands of years. If used correctly, fire has many benefits. If used incorrectly or by accident, fire can be dangerous. Almost 90% of wildfires last year were caused by humans, destroying property and natural resources.

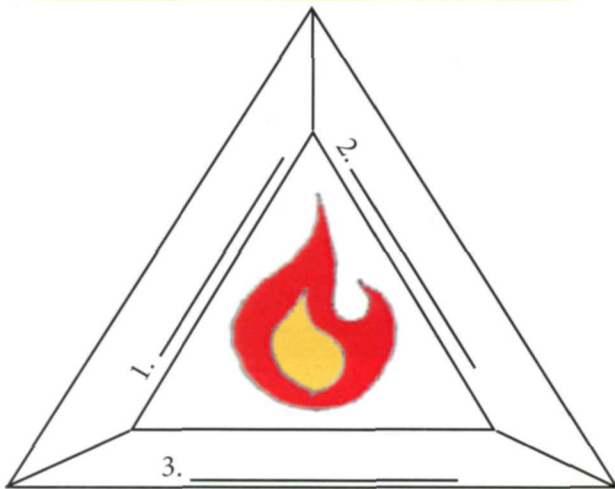
Just as you need certain things to survive, there are three elements that fire needs to thrive. In this activity, find all the blue fire safety words in the word search. Use the remaining uncircled letters to reveal the three elements fire needs to survive.



Firefighter Harry says:

- \*Dig a pit to dry soil for a campfire.
- \*Put a ring of rocks around the pit.
- \*Never put anything but wood into the fire.
- \*Watch the weather. Do not burn when the weather is very dry or windy.
- \*Burn dry plants, not trash.
- \*Keep a bucket of water and shovel nearby.
- \*Make sure the fire is cold before leaving.

H	R	H	Y	W	E
S	I	A	R	E	D
T	N	R	D	A	L
N	G	R	Y	T	O
A	O	Y	R	H	C
L	F	A	E	E	T
P	R	O	V	R	X
Y	O	E	G	E	D
P	C	N	T	O	F
I	K	U	O	A	E
T	S	W	L	S	W
L	E	V	O	H	S





## Activity 2: Putting Out Fire

Plains tribes set controlled fires on the plains to change the landscape to meet their needs. They called it “putting out fire” meaning, “to light a fire.” Today, “putting out fire” means to stop a fire from burning. Burning the plains removed dead dry grass which allowed fresh green grass to grow for horse herds and helped in hunting.

What other reasons did the Plains tribes have to “put out fire” on the prairie? Circle the correct activities listed below.

to communicate  
over long distances

to clear ground  
for plowing

to aid in hunting



to burn  
farmsteads

to increase  
production of nuts,  
berries, and seeds

to clear a path  
for wagon trains

to clear  
underbrush for  
easy transportation

to fight enemies

to remove dry  
grasses & small  
trees



to clear a path  
for railroads

to clear a site  
to build city  
buildings



Bonus Question: List at least three ways you use fire in your life.

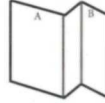


### Activity 3: Settlers' Viewpoints



Plains tribes had many uses for fire. Settlers on the plains had a very different view on the use of fire. Fold in the picture below to see and read how they thought.

How to fold the picture:



fold back so  
"A" meets "B"



Settlers on the plains thought that fire can help clear fields for planting and pasture. They used dishtowels and sacks to protect their home when faster moving flames came near.



## Activity 4: Prairie Plants & Paw-prints

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Fire plays an important role in many ecosystems. Prescribed fires are set by professional wildland firefighters to mimic natural burn cycles, promoting healthy and diverse habitats for plants and animals on the plains.

Wildland firefighters set a prescribed fire through the landscape below. Draw in the prairie scene some of the plants and animals that benefit from prescribed fires.

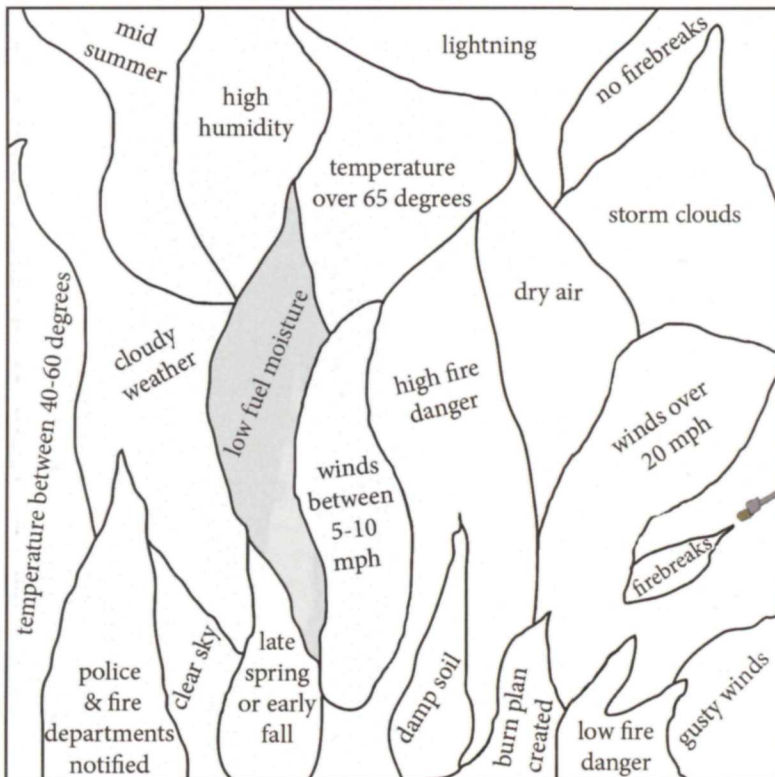


## Activity 5: Only Under the Correct Conditions



Did you know that it is not always safe to light a prescribed fire? There are certain conditions needed to light a prescribed fire safely.

Can you help Firefighter Harry light the prescribed fire below by coloring in the correct conditions? One has already been done for you.





## Activity 6: What is that??

Wildland Firefighters use many tools to control a fire and keep themselves safe.

Can you unscramble some of the things Firefighter Harry uses when fighting fire and draw a line to where you can find them on him?

ikplusa \_\_\_\_\_

irdp rhtoc \_\_\_\_\_

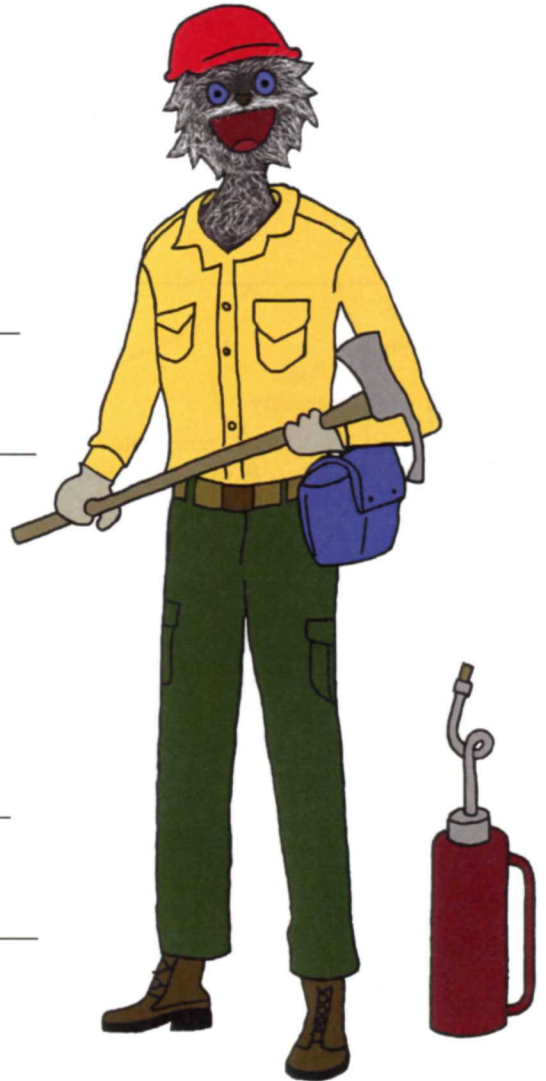
ifre hletser \_\_\_\_\_

ahdr ath \_\_\_\_\_

eolvgs \_\_\_\_\_

nomex tsirh nomex \_\_\_\_\_

nomex tsanp nomex \_\_\_\_\_





# Activity 7: Radio Problems

Firefighter Harry received a message on his radio, but it was a little staticky and he did not understand it. Can you help him figure out what the message is by using the code cipher below?

□△ΓΔ! □Γ□□ □□△Γ□□□□<!  
-----! -----!

▽□ □┘>□ ▽□□< □Γ□□▽!  
-----! -----!



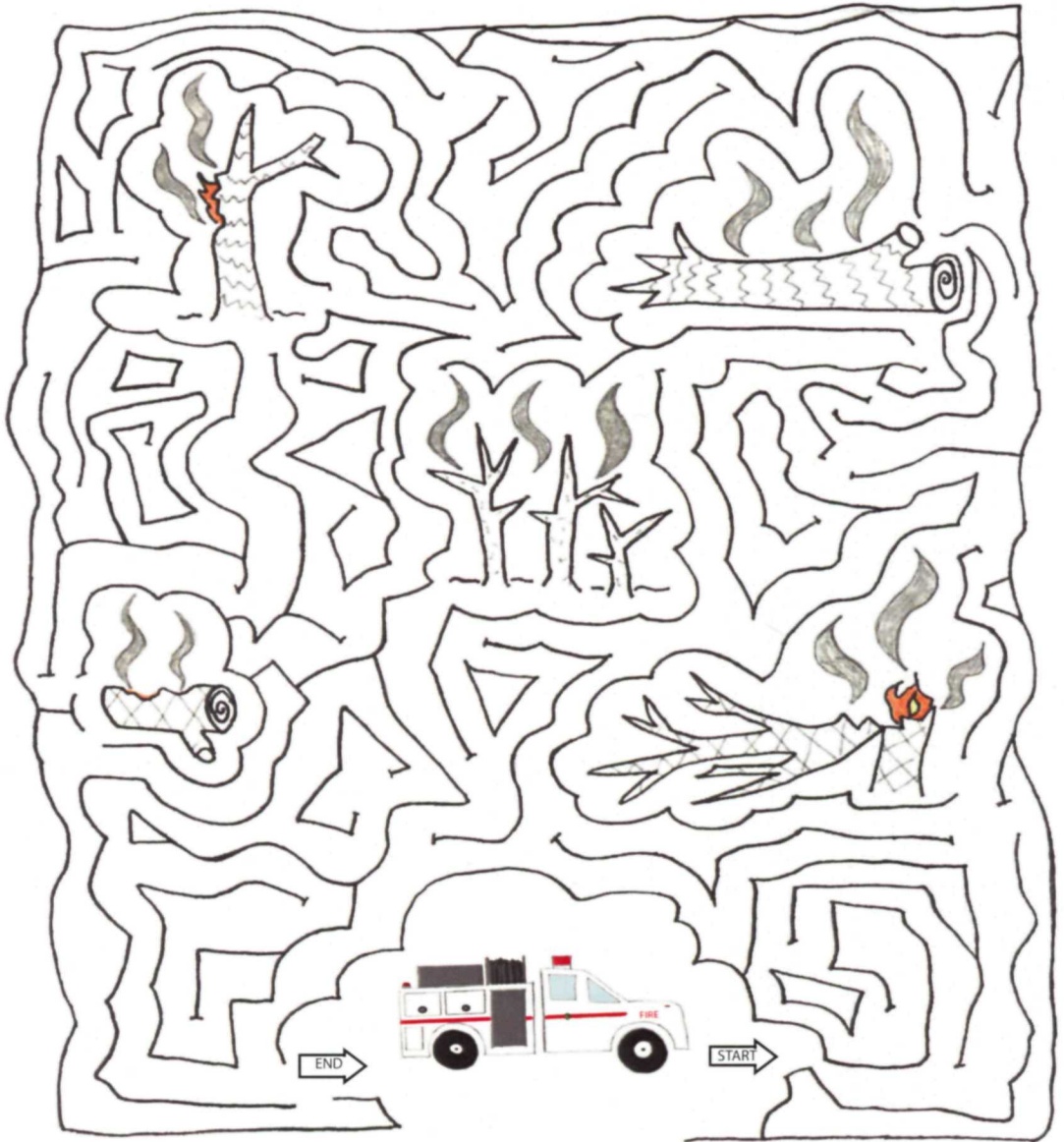
A	B	C	J. •	K. •	L. •		
D	E	F	M. •	N. •	O. •	S	
G	H	I	P. •	Q. •	R. •	V	T
						U	
							W
						Z. •	X. •
							Y



## Activity 8: Mop-Up

Firefighters make sure that a prescribed burn is out and safe before leaving by spraying water on the hot spots and raking out the coals. This is called mop-up.

Can you help Firefighter Harry mop-up the fire by spraying water on all the hot spots?



# JUNIOR WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER

CONGRATULATIONS TO

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for successfully completing the requirements to become a  
Washita Battlefield Junior Wildland Firefighter  
and therefore promises to explore, learn, and protect  
our National Parks.



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Park Ranger

## **FIRE TERMS:**

**BURN PLAN-** a document which has information that a fire manager needs to begin a prescribed fire

**FIREBREAK-** a gap in vegetation or fuel that acts as a barrier to slow to stop the progress of a fire

**FIRE SHELTER-** a safety device used by wildland firefighters to cover themselves when trapped by a wildfire

**FUEL-** any combustible material

**HOT SPOTS-** places where fire is likely to start or is still burning

**MOP-UP-** extinguishing or removing burning material after an area has burned, to make a fire safe and to reduce smoke

**NOMEX-** a fire resistant material used for firefighter clothing

**PRESCRIBED or CONTROLLED FIRE-** a wildland fire started by fire managers to meet certain goals

**PULASKI-** a wildland firefighter hand tool with an axe on one side for chopping and a hoe on the other for digging

**SNAG-** a standing dead tree

**SPOT FIRE-** a fire that jumps outside the perimeter of the main fire

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NPS Fire Education & Communication Grant



Learn more about Washita Battlefield National Historic Site.

Visit: [nps.gov/waba](https://www.nps.gov/waba)