

# Bushfires & the Australian Environment — Knowledge Organiser

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## Key facts

- Bushfires are wildfires that spread through the Australian bush, especially in hot, dry summers.
- They can be started by lightning, by accident, or deliberately.
- Strong winds and dry plants help fires spread quickly.
- Some Australian plants actually need fire to release their seeds.

## Key vocabulary

- Bushfire — a fire spreading through bush or grassland.
- Drought — a long dry period that increases fire risk.
- Cultural burning — careful, planned fire used by First Nations peoples to care for Country.
- Eucalyptus — a tree whose oily leaves burn easily.

## Fire and First Nations knowledge

For tens of thousands of years, Aboriginal peoples have used cultural burning — small, controlled fires — to care for the land and reduce the risk of large, dangerous fires. Today, this knowledge is increasingly respected and used.

## Staying safe

Communities prepare fire plans, listen to warnings, and clear dry leaves near homes. Firefighters and volunteers work hard to protect people and wildlife.