

# **Fire in the Forest and on the Prairie**

Meets Education Standards  
Indiana Standard 4: The Living Environment 5.47 and 7.414  
Illinois Learning Standards: Stage F – Science, 12B

**Objective:** To educate the student to the importance of using fire as a resource management tool.

After completing this lesson, the student should be able to:

- Understand the method of using prescribed burns for restoration and land management
- Identify the components of fire
- Understand what composes a fuel source
- Know what place fire has in a balanced ecosystem
- Be familiar with the adaptations of native prairie plants
- The effects of a burn on wildlife
- Know what happens during a controlled burn

## **Lesson Plan:**

- I Fire Science
  - A. What fire needs to burn
  - B. Combustion chemistry
  - C. Experiments with fire
    - 1. Activities 1 & 2 [www.iit.edu/~smile/ch96m3.html](http://www.iit.edu/~smile/ch96m3.html)
- II Animals and Plants on the Prairies
  - [www.bellmuseum.org/distancelearning/prairie/build/](http://www.bellmuseum.org/distancelearning/prairie/build/)
- III Resource Management through Controlled Burns
  - A. History of controlled burns
  - B. Adaptations of native species
    - 1. Plant adaptations
    - 2. Animal adaptations
  - C. Environmental Impact of a Controlled burn
    - 1. Plant
    - 2. Wildlife
    - 3. Air
    - 4. Soil and water

IV Controlled Burn Management

1. Pre-burn preparation
2. During the burn
3. Post-burn
4. Emergency procedures
5. Burn crew safety
6. [www.efieldtrips.org/fire](http://www.efieldtrips.org/fire) Download worksheet before viewing  
and  
[www.nps.gov/fire/utility/media/uti\\_casestudy\\_BAER.cfm](http://www.nps.gov/fire/utility/media/uti_casestudy_BAER.cfm)

V Self Test

IV Just For Fun

1. [www.smokeybear.com](http://www.smokeybear.com)
2. Movie - Always, Rated PG, Starring Richard Dreyfuss, Holly Hunter, 1989.