

Student worksheet n°2: reading a press article in order to develop the subject of land management

Sources: an abridged article from The Conversation 'Indigenous expertise is reducing bushfires in northern Australia. It's time to consider similar approaches for other disasters', February 25, 2021

Indigenous expertise is reducing bushfires in northern Australia.

After Australia ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 2007, there was renewed focus on reducing wildfires in Australia's tropical savannas due to their significant role in creating greenhouse gas emissions. [...]

Our team at the Charles Darwin University's Darwin Centre for Bushfire Research has been working with Indigenous land managers, conservation, research and government organisations in northern Australia for the last 25 years to find more effective ways to manage wildfires.

These collaborations have led to a new approach, blending modern scientific knowledge with traditional Indigenous land management practices to reduce bushfire risk.

How? By reducing fuel load through a patchy mosaic of small, low intensity, burns early in the fire season that cut the risk of late dry season fires when greenhouse gas emissions are much greater.

By collaborating with Indigenous ranger groups, this experience shows Australia can develop economically sustainable long-term solutions to manage bushfire risks — and shows what might be possible for other natural hazards such as cyclones and floods. [...]

When done well, a collaborative approach to emergency management can create opportunities on country, enhance cultural and learning opportunities for Indigenous peoples and deliver environmental benefits for everyone.

KK. Sangha (Senior Ecological Economist, Charles Darwin University), A. Edwards (Research Fellow Bushfires, Charles Darwin University, W Rioli Sr, Fire coordinator for the Tiwi Islands, Indigenous Knowledge) in *The Conservation* (extracts), February 25, 2021

Task: Read the press article above and answer the questions.

Questions:

1/ Present the document.

2/ What is the main idea of this article?

3/ Who are the two main actors involved in the project?

4/ How original is their approach? Highlight the correct sentence in the document then write your answer with your own words.

5/ In concrete terms, how will they proceed? What is unusual about the means and the procedure?

6/ To summarize, what are all the benefits of the technics described in the article.

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Examples of answers (A).

Questions:

1/ Present the document.

2/ What is the main idea of this article?

A: The main idea of this article is to find ways to manage and reduce bushfires risks in northern Australia. One way is especially developed: "the cool burning".

3/ Who are the two main actors involved in the project?

A: We learn that there is a cooperation between scientists working for the Charles Darwin university and indigenous land manager.

4/ How original is their approach? **Highlight** the correct sentence in the document then write your answer with your own words.

A: It is original because it combines new and past skills. Indeed, the scientists share their knowledges with these of the Aboriginal people.

5/ In concrete terms, how will they proceed? What is unusual about the means and the procedure?

A: By doing cool burning (little burns) on the soil to prevent against big fires. It seems weird because using fire to fight fire is counter-intuitive.

6/ To summarize, what are all the benefits of the technics described in the article.

A:
= it helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a world scale.
= it prevents against bushfires in Australia.
= it could develop other collaborations in order to fight against other environmental issues (cyclones...).
= Aboriginal people are recognized in their culture.
To summarize, there are local and global benefits.