



ACTIVITY 4

Fire on a Ranch - Harmful or Helpful?



RANCH LIFE SERIES / BOOK 5 / PRAIRIE FIRE

Chapter 11

Content Area

Fire Safety

Topic

Fire Safety and Prevention

Objective

Students will examine the impact of fire on a ranch

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)

Fire Safety for Texanswww





Fire on a Ranch - Harmful or Helpful?

CONTENT AREA: Fire Safety

TOPICS: Fire Safety and Prevention

ACTIVITY MATERIALS:

- HELPFUL OR HARMFUL WORKSHEET (page A4-3)
- BOTTOM LINE WORKSHEET (page A4-4)

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Have students read Chapter 10: Prairie Fires Are Everyone's Problem
2. Watch Video as a class:
 - Nature Lab: Fighting Fire with Fire: Can Fire Positively Impact an Ecosystem? <https://vimeo.com/77792710>
3. Use the HARMFUL OR HELPFUL WORKSHEET. Guide students to brainstorm ways that fire can be harmful and ways it is helpful on a ranch.
 - Examples of harmful may include damaging structures, people or ecosystems
 - Examples of helpful may include reducing future fires
4. Students will complete worksheet by using examples of helpful and harmful from the book or from the video.

STUDENT SKILLS ASSESSMENT:

- Have students (or student groups) complete the BOTTOM LINE worksheet at the end of the activity.

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SECURITY BRIEFING –

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM HANK THE COWDOG:

*We have to figure out how to live with fire. Okay, it's time for a Wise Old Saying:
"If you can't beat 'em, eat 'em."*

Wait, that doesn't sound right. "If you can't beat 'em...something." I had it right on the tock of my tang and...does anyone remember the Famous Wise Old Saying? This is frustrating.

Phooey.

Wait, I've got it! Here it is, so pay attention: "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em." There we go. In other words, if we can't suppress prairie fires, maybe we have to figure out how to live with 'em.

To get started, let's do an activity to help us think of ways that fires are helpful and ways they are harmful.

ACTIVITY MATERIALS:

- HELPFUL OR HARMFUL WORKSHEET
- THE BOTTOM LINE WORKSHEET

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Read Chapter 10
2. Watch Video Nature Lab: Fighting Fire with Fire: Can Fire Positively Impact an Ecosystem?
<https://vimeo.com/77792710>
3. Complete **HELP OR HARMFUL WORKSHEET**
4. Answer Questions on the **BOTTOM LINE**

WRAP UP:

*Fill out the **BOTTOM LINE** worksheet after you have completed the activity.*



Fire on a Ranch - Harmful or Helpful?



NAME: _____ DATE: _____

HELPFUL & HARMFUL WORKSHEET

List ways a fire can be helpful or harmful on a ranch.

HELPFUL	HARMFUL

Fire on a Ranch - Harmful or Helpful?



NAME: _____ DATE: _____

THE BOTTOM LINE

Answer the following questions.

1. True or False: Fire can be used to improve the prairie ecosystem.
2. Describe one way a fire is harmful to the land.
3. Describe one way a fire is helpful to the land.
4. What is the purpose of a prescribed burn?
5. True or False: Wildfires are dangerous. Explain why.