

FIRE AND ITS ROLE IN THE CANADIAN FOREST

A. Fire, climate, and soil are three natural factors that are important to the Canadian forest.

- The forest, in its natural state, needs recycling by random fires so that it can survive.
- In the boreal forest the main tree species are Black Spruce, Jack Pine, Lodgepole Pine, Trembling Aspen, and White Birch.
- All of these species of trees are able to grow even after all the trees have been killed by fire in a large area.
- We will see Aspen suckers coming right from the root systems while other trees can sprout from the dead trees.
- Jack Pine, Lodgepole Pine, and Black Spruce store seeds for years and will only seed themselves after the cones are opened by heat from a fire.



B.

- Long ago if the forest was on fire it was due to lightning. Without good control of the fire, two to three times as much area was burned each year as it does now.
- Fire is neither good nor bad. It is necessary to keep the forest in its natural state.
- The safety of forestry towns is very important.

C.

- People still wonder about what is the best way to control fires because of how much it costs to manage fires to save the forest.

- The Canadian Forestry Association and provincial forestry departments carry out fire-prevention programs which teach people about keeping the forest safe.
- The rule “*do not start forest fires*” remains very important to every citizen.