

Explicit Instruction Think Aloud (RAP)

This document contains two paragraphs that can be used by the course instructor and the teacher candidates to model the RAP strategy. The first paragraph is to be used with the decomposition activity, and the second is to be used by the candidates in their simulation.

Controlled Burns: How Do They Help the Forest?

Can you imagine setting a fire on purpose? I know it is hard to believe that someone would set a fire on purpose. Yet, it is exactly what forest rangers and other trained professionals do to help the forest. Under the right weather conditions, they set and extinguish well-managed fires called controlled burns. These fires are not like the destructive forest fires that you often hear about in California and other states. These fires are important for managing the forest and reducing the risk of forest fires.

Over time, branches, leaves, and dead insects and animals collect on the floor of the forest. As these dead materials decay, they can bring nutrients to the forest soil. They can also catch fire and burn out of control. Controlled burns reduce the amount of these dead materials so they do not pile up and create a massive forest fire. Controlled fires also speed up the decay process, bringing nutrients to the forest soil. When conducted by trained forest rangers and other professionals, controlled burns can prevent forest fires and help the forest thrive.

Man's Best Friend

Did you ever wonder why people say, "dogs are your best friend"? Well, there are several good reasons for this claim. Dogs are loyal pets. They remember all the attention you pay them and that you feed and pet them. So they stick with you no matter what. They do not hold grudges. They do not stay mad when you gently pull their tail or get upset with them. Dogs are also always there to protect you. Whenever someone comes to the door, they bark fiercely to defend you and your home. Plus, dogs are always happy to see you even if you are in a bad mood. If you are sad, they will sit by your side and cuddle with you. Spending 10 minutes with your dog can sometimes make you forget all your troubles. If you have a dog, you likely understand why many people consider them their best friend.