

## Wildfires: Before and After

*An activity of "Wildfires cause damage and great suffering in many countries".*

Read **"Wildfires cause damage and great suffering in many countries"** and its side bars (pages 8–9, *What's Up* September 2023). Then, work in pairs to explore how art can be used to communicate about this issue.

1. Watch the following short video on wildfires and their impact on the land.

### Wildfires 101




➤ <https://youtu.be/5hghT1W33cY?feature=shared>

(National Geographic, Oct 24 2017)

2. Based on your understanding from the above, what are some effects of wildfires?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>
---

3. Some terrains are more prone to wildfires. Match these three to the correct answer.

	➔	←	Brush terrain
	➔	←	Peatland terrain
	➔	←	Forest terrain

4. Pair up with a partner and select a terrain you like. You will need:

- Drawing paper
- Any colouring medium(s) e.g. paints, colour pencils, markers, etc.

a) The “Before” scene: One person will create an artwork depicting the beauty of the terrain. Watch this for an example:

**Forest pathway painting - easy acrylic painting for beginners**

➤ [https://youtu.be/v8Gh\\_VNPFzM?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/v8Gh_VNPFzM?feature=shared)

(easypeasyart, 8 Dec 2021)

b) The “After” scene: The second person depicts the potential devastation caused by the wildfires on that terrain. For instance:

**Acrylic Landscape Painting of a Forest Fire**

➤ <https://youtu.be/SVBXDsu3Bws?feature=shared>

Artist Timothy Stanford (Perceiving Light, 23 Oct 2022)

c) Display your “Before & After” art in class.

5. Have a whole-class discussion by sharing your thoughts and feelings in response to these prompts.

- How did each of you feel while creating your respective “Before” and “After” terrains?
- What can be done to prevent wildfires destroying the beautiful “before” scenes?
- What can be done after the “after” scenes to enable healing and recovery of the land?

*Use this space to jot down points that were shared in class.*