

DAY 131 Arctic wildfires visible from space



Hundreds of huge wildfires have broken out all across the Arctic Circle. Areas in the Arctic are warming twice as fast as anywhere else on the planet. There are so many fires and they are so big that the smoke from them can be seen from space. Meteorologists report that the Arctic is having its hottest June ever and is suffering

its worst wildfire season on record. There are huge blazes covering large areas of Greenland, Siberia, Scandinavia and Alaska. In Alaska, there are as many as 400 fires burning out of control. In Greenland, melting on the vast Greenland ice sheet has started a month earlier than usual. The World Meteorological Organization has said the Arctic fires are "unprecedented".

Scientists say the fires and suffocating smoke could have an effect on global warming. Meteorologist Mark Parrington explained what is causing the wildfires. He said: "Temperatures in the Arctic have been increasing at a much faster rate than the global average, and warmer conditions encourage fires to grow and persist once they have been ignited." Dry ground, more lightning strikes and strong winds have caused the fires to spread very quickly. A lot of ice has melted and the flames have set fire to methane-filled earth below the ice. This is releasing huge amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The fires have also caused serious habitat loss and have killed uncountable numbers of animals.

SYNONYM MATCH

1. broken out	a. huge
2. suffering	b. speed
3. covering	c. unheard of
4. vast	d. volume
5. unprecedented	e. experiencing
6. suffocating	f. set alight
7. rate	g. started
8. ignited	h. natural environment
9. amounts	i. blanketing
10. habitat	j. choking

GIVE YOUR BEST ANSWER

- This wildfire season is the worst ever for the Arctic Circle. T / F
- The Greenland ice sheet started melting a month later than usual. T / F
- The smoke from the fires will not affect global warming. T / F
- Dry ground has caused the fires to spread more quickly. T / F
- How many fires are burning out of control in Alaska?
- What has started melting a month earlier than usual?
- What did the World Meteorological Organization call the fires?
- What did scientists say could have an effect on global warming?

A clean bill of health !!!

Dick	What did the doctor say ?
Brad	The doctor gave me a clean bill of health . He said I only have a strained chest muscle.
Dick	How did that happen ?
Brad	I guess I overdid it during my workout.
Dick	Just the same, don't you need to take it easy the next few days ?
Brad	No, I'm fine. I'm thrilled to be alive and well !

Explanation :

A clean bill of health - when a doctor says that someone is healthy

Example: He's been given **a clean bill of health** by the doctor.

PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

1. Hundreds of huge wildfires have	a. large areas of Greenland
2. warming twice as fast as anywhere else	b. loss
3. huge blazes covering	c. "unprecedented"
4. melting on the vast	d. than the global average
5. the Arctic fires are	e. smoke
6. the fires and suffocating	f. on the planet
7. increasing at a much faster rate	g. filled earth below
8. encourage fires to grow and persist once	h. broken out
9. set fire to methane-	i. they have been ignited
10. The fires have also caused serious habitat	j. Greenland ice sheet

DAY 133 Boris Johnson becomes UK's new leader



The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has a new leader. Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson became the UK's new Prime Minister yesterday after Theresa May announced her resignation in June. Mr Johnson, commonly known as Boris, realized a childhood dream of

becoming leader of the UK. It is reported that when he was eight, he told his parents he wanted to be king of the world. He now has the lesser role of Prime Minister but has a tough task ahead of him. His most pressing undertaking is to deliver Brexit and make sure Britain withdraws from the European Union. Mr Johnson has vowed to ensure this will be done by October 31st. His political future depends on this.

Boris Johnson had to go to Buckingham Palace to meet Queen Elizabeth before taking over as the UK's 77th Prime Minister. Tradition dictates that the Queen formally asks any new appointee to form a new government. Johnson accepted and drove to 10 Downing Street - the official residence of the British leader. His first job is to form his Cabinet - the people who will take up key decision-making roles in the new UK government. Johnson said: "Though I am today building a great team of men and women, I will take personal responsibility for the change I want to see." In his first speech to the nation as Prime Minister, he promised to spend more money on the police, education and social welfare.

SYNONYM MATCH

1. resignation	a. make
2. realized	b. orders
3. tough	c. promised
4. vowed	d. putting together
5. depends on	e. achieved
6. dictates	f. difficult
7. form	g. important
8. key	h. hinges on
9. building	i. pay out
10. spend	j. departure

GIVE YOUR BEST ANSWER

Mr Johnson had a childhood dream to be king of the world. T / F

The article said Mr Johnson's most pressing task was to deliver Brexit. T / F

Mr Johnson said he would deliver Brexit by December 31st. T / F

Mr Johnson is the United Kingdom's 77th Prime Minister. T / F

What does Mr Johnson's political future depend on?

Where did Mr Johnson have to go before becoming Prime Minister?

How many Prime Ministers did the UK have before Mr Johnson?

Where is the UK Prime Minister's official residence?

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Water under the bridge !!!

Alyson I have my ways. Anyway, he wants to see us.

Nadine I can't believe my ears ! He said that ?

Alyson Yes he wants us to meet our half-sister.

Nadine We have a half-sister ? Does Mom know ?

Alyson Yes, she's all for it.

Nadine Well, I'm in shock. How do you feel about all this ?

Alyson As far as I'm concerned, it's **water under the bridge**.

Explanation :

Water under the bridge - something that is done and over with, past events to be put aside

Example : Yes, we did have our disagreements but that's **water under the bridge** now.

PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

1. Theresa May announced her	a. decision-making roles
2. realized a childhood dream of becoming	b. this will be done
3. His most pressing undertaking is	c. money on the police
4. Mr Johnson has vowed to ensure	d. of the British leader
5. His political future depends	e. to deliver Brexit
6. taking over as the	f. resignation in June
7. the official residence	g. responsibility
8. people who will take up key	h. on this
9. take personal	i. leader of the UK
10. he promised to spend more	j. UK's 77th Prime Minister

DAY 135 Rescuers help airlift thousands of salmon to safety



A team of rescuers is working hard to help airlift thousands of salmon in Canada to safety. The salmon are trapped in a section of the Fraser River in British Columbia, Canada. They have been trapped in that part of the river since a landslide in June. The landslide blocked off the section of the river,

which meant the salmon could not swim upstream to spawn (lay their eggs). Rescuers and conservationists have spent several weeks looking at ways to help the fish. They decided the best way was to fly the fish to the other side of the fallen rocks by helicopter. The fish will then be free to swim up to their breeding ground. Rescuers have been "working around the clock" to help the salmon.

Conservationists warn that if the fish cannot lay their eggs, the entire local salmon population will be at risk. Future numbers of the fish will drop to dangerously low levels. This would have an impact on many of Canada's First Nations indigenous people. They need the salmon for food and for cultural reasons. Salmon play an important role in many traditional ceremonies of people who have lived along the Fraser River for hundreds of years. Their way of life will continue thanks to the rescuers' help. The rescuers are also looking at other ways to help the fish. One said: "We expect over three million [salmon] to migrate north of that rockslide. With that number of fish, you have to find alternate methods."

PHRASE MATCH

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. team | a. caution |
| 2. trapped | b. a number of |
| 3. blocked | c. relocate |
| 4. several | d. whole |
| 5. best | e. caught |
| 6. warn | f. customary |
| 7. entire | g. most suitable |
| 8. indigenous | h. group |
| 9. traditional | i. native |
| 10. migrate | j. obstructed |

Give your best answer

Thousands of salmon are trapped in Canada's Columbia River. T / F

The salmon need to swim downstream to lay their eggs. T / F

Conservationists said helicopter was the best way to rescue the salmon. T / F

Rescuers are using round clocks to help rescue the salmon. T / F

What kind of ground do the salmon want to swim up to?

What have the rescuers been working around?

What will happen to the salmon population if the fish cannot lay eggs?

Which people would falling numbers of salmon affect?