

Level
B

Exploring

**Content
Area
READING**

- Science • Social Studies
- Language Arts • Mathematics

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Fire Safety: **A Hot Idea**



Every year, thousands of Americans die in fires that take place in their homes. Do you know what you would do in a fire? Share these fire safety tips with your parents. One day, the tips may save your lives.

- 1.** Be sure your house has a smoke alarm. This will give you an early warning about fires. Alarms should be near all the bedrooms. Test them once a month to be sure the batteries work. Replace the batteries every six months.
- 2.** Plan an escape route for the whole family—before the fire strikes. Fires can make you too confused and panicky to think straight. A plan will help you get out fast. You should have two ways to get out of every room. If a fire blocks one path, you can escape by another path.
- 3.** Practice your escape route once a month. A smoky fire can make it hard to see. So when you practice, turn the lights off in your house or walk with your eyes closed.
- 4.** If a fire does strike, leave the house right away. Don't grab any objects, no matter how important they are to you.
- 5.** Smoke and flames rise. It will be easier to breathe low to the ground. So stay down.
- 6.** Before you open a door, touch the door or doorknob with your hand. If it's hot, it means the fire is on the other side. Take a different escape path.
- 7.** Once you're out of the house, meet your family at a safe spot chosen beforehand. It should be fairly close to the house. This way, you'll know who has escaped and who hasn't.
- 8.** Call 911 or the fire department immediately. It is best to call from a neighbor's house.
- 9.** Never go back into a burning building. Tell the firefighters if a person or pet is missing.

Comprehension Connection



Before Reading

1. What do you already know about fires and burning buildings?
2. What do you think you will learn in this article?
3. Why is it a good idea for you to learn about fire safety?

During Reading

1. What parts of this list are most useful to you?
2. What questions does this article make you want to find the answers for?
3. What safety tips help you to be prepared for a fire? Why?

After Reading

1. What did item 4 make you think about?
2. Why is item 7 important?
3. Does the author do a good job of getting across the rules for fire safety? Why do you think so?

Skill Focus

Learning a Procedure: Find, Understand, and Organize

You can easily see why it is important to learn about fire safety. You can save your life or the lives of your family. How can you learn these procedures? Have a plan for attacking this article!

First, look at the numbered items. They fall into two categories:

1. Being prepared
2. What to do in a fire

Can you find the items that tell you how to prepare for a fire? Read them carefully. Think about each rule and how you will follow it in your home.

Next, turn to the items (4–9) that tell you what to do in a fire. Decide how you would carry out each of these procedures in your home.

For example, if the smoke alarm wakes you, what do you do? Get up immediately and put your escape plan into action. Do not search for your favorite things. Crawl along to stay low. And so on.

By organizing this information in a way that fits your life, you are more likely to remember it.

Writer's World

1. Imagine a smoke alarm wakes you in the middle of the night. Write a description of what you do to escape your home safely.
2. What rules would help keep you safe in the kitchen? Write a set of kitchen safety rules and post them at home.
3. Suppose your friend says that practicing a fire drill is stupid. Write the friend a letter. In it, explain why it is important to make and practice an escape plan in case of a fire.



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A Big Win for Australia



Australian Cathy Freeman, a champion runner, had a golden moment during the 2000 Summer Olympic Games. After winning the 400-meter race, she held two flags in one of her hands on her victory lap around the stadium in Sydney, Australia. One was the flag of Australia. The other flag stood for Aboriginal people, the native peoples of Australia.

Freeman was the first Aboriginal person ever to win an individual Olympic gold

medal. Freeman was also chosen to light the Olympic Flame at the beginning of the Games. She received this honor because she is a national hero and role model for Australians—Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal.

Before taking part in the Olympics, Freeman was already the world champion in her event. So she was favored to win it. This put a lot of pressure on her. When Freeman did win, she was happy. So were millions of other Australians!

Comprehension Connection



Before Reading

1. What do you know about Australia? What do you know about the Olympics?
2. Where do you think the woman in the photo is? What do you think she is doing? Why?
3. Have you ever won a race or other contest? How does that help you understand what this woman is feeling?

During Reading

1. What two important things did Cathy Freeman do at the 2000 Summer Olympics?
2. How does the word *Aborigine* relate to the topic of this card?
3. Why did Cathy Freeman feel so much pressure to win the event?

After Reading

1. How does the picture make you feel?
2. What does the picture and the text make you think about?
3. What is the main idea of the picture and caption? How do you know?

Skill Focus

Look Carefully and React to What You See

Looking at photographs can be fun. They often show something interesting. You'll find them even more interesting, though, if you look closely and really think about what each photograph shows.

In this picture of Cathy Freeman, you probably first notice that she looks very happy. But if you look more carefully, you can see that she is standing on a racetrack, she has on an outfit with numbers on it, and she is holding up two flags. You might recognize the racetrack as the kind runners use and the outfit as the kind runners wear, so you can tell Cathy is a runner. You might guess that she is holding up two flags because each one means something important to her.

Thinking about the picture a bit more might make you realize that the woman in it is very happy because she has won a race. Her happy face can make you feel happy for her. It can make you think about a time when you or someone you know won a contest and were very happy about it.

You can get an amazing amount of information and reactions from just one picture!

Writer's World

1. You are a photographer on your way to the Olympics. Jot down several ideas and reasons for the kinds of pictures you want to take.
2. Suppose that you are Cathy Freeman. Write a journal entry telling about the day this picture was taken. Tell what happened and how you felt.
3. Take several pictures of people or objects that you think are interesting. Choose one of the pictures and write a caption for it. Post the picture and the caption on the bulletin board in your classroom.



Using Search Engines

The Internet can provide you with all kinds of information. But you need to know which web sites will be most helpful. Here are the results of a web search on George Washington, the first U.S. President.

Search the Web for: Previous Next

Results 1-6 out of 484 for George Washington

Web Directory Sites
The 6 Most Popular Sites for "George Washington"

- 1. American Presidents: George Washington**
Official White House site offers a profile of the first President of the U.S. Includes a biography, his complete inaugural address, quotations, and major speeches.
www.americanpresidents.com
- 2. George Washington—The Man and the Myth**
Was George Washington just a rich landowner who didn't care about the poor? Articles and discussions by writers on the beliefs of Washington, including his attitude on slavery and The Bill of Rights. Learn about the real man.
www.themanandthemyth.com
- 3. George Washington**
I have written all the information I have found on the first President as part of my project for Mrs. Elmke's sixth-grade class. George Washington was a great man and deserves to have a holiday named after him. Feel free to read my research.
www.george/washington.com
- 4. George Washington University**
Admissions materials, full description of courses and professors, requirements for classes, plus information on employment, tours of campus, and more.
www.georgewashingtonuniversity.edu
- 5. Mount Vernon**
Visit George Washington's home: take virtual guided tours of his mansion, and see original documents, furniture, paintings, clothing. Information on visiting the real Mt. Vernon, including admission prices, opening and closing hours.
www.mountvernon.org
- 6. George Washington Carver**
Tribute to the great African-American inventor and scientist who discovered many uses of the peanut, including peanut butter. Pictures, quotes, essays, and links. A great resource on black history.
www.georgewashingtoncarver.com