

**Actuele lesbrief Engels – The Camp Fire**

**Voor de docent**

Bosbranden zijn niet ongewoon in Californië. De afgelopen jaren zijn ze wel steeds heviger geworden met als treurig hoogtepunt de zogenaamde Camp Fire deze maand.

**ERK-niveau**

Lezen A2 - Lezen om informatie op te doen – Kan de hoofdlijn begrijpen van eenvoudige teksten in een tijdschrift, krant of op een website. (LEA2-3b)

Leesstrategieën - Kan zijn of haar begrip van de algemene betekenis van korte teksten over alledaagse onderwerpen van concrete aard gebruiken om de vermoedelijke betekenis van onbekende woorden af te leiden uit de context.

Kan gebruikmaken van tweetalige (online) woordenboeken om woordbegrip te controleren, indien toegestaan.

**Intro**

Fires are raging in California. The recent Camp Fire is the deadliest wildfire in the history of California.

Assignment 1

Read the assignment and write down the answers in English. You may use English-language Internet sources to help you.

a Climate change is causing more and bigger wildfires. Write down at least three other things that may be caused by climate change.

b Fire is powerful. The power of fire can be negative, but also positive. Write down possible effects of fire. Organize the effects in a chart with two columns: positive and negative.

**The Camp Fire**

***Drier autumn season resulted in huge fire in Northern California town***

Paradise is a town in California. It is a wet place compared to most of California.

The town usually gets about 55 inches of rain a year. There is so much rain because the town is in the lower hills of the Sierra Nevada mountains. It gets a lot of rain coming off the Pacific Ocean.

But this year has been different. When a fire started November 8, Paradise was dry. The fire was called the Camp Fire. The area usually gets about 15 storms during the summer and early autumn. That adds up to 5 inches of rain. This year, it got almost nothing. It got just one-seventh of an inch of rain.

The plants and trees around Paradise were very dry. It was a dangerous situation. The result was the worst fire in California’s history. The Camp Fire has destroyed 10,300 buildings. At least 63 people have died. Dozens are still missing.

*It’s raining less in California*

Across California, there is not enough rain. It is creating serious problems. Ventura County is in Southern California. There the Woolsey Fire started in early November. It destroyed hundreds of houses.

The county also got almost no rain through the summer and autumn. Early autumn storms were supposed to have ended the fire season in Northern California by now. Then more firefighters would be free to go to Southern California and fight the fires there. At first there were not enough firefighters to stop the Camp Fire. Many of them were still busy with other fires in the state.

Climate change is making the planet warmer. Scientists say climate change will change California. The state should expect drier autumns and springs. More of the rain and snow will fall in the winter months. That is bad news for firefighters. They need early rain. It helps keep the worst fires from starting. Rain makes the extreme winds that start in autumn less dangerous. Those winds spread many of California’s worst fires.

*Longer fire season is likely*

Nina Oakley is an expert on the climate in California. She said that the fire season will probably be longer from now on. It will continue into autumn and even early winter more often.

The plants and trees in Paradise were very dry this autumn. That caused the fire to spread very fast. It was different in the past. In the last six years, it has been drier in the coast region of Southern California than normally during autumn. The dry plants and trees make fires much more dangerous. Fires spread quicker.

Oakley said things get difficult when wildfires continue right up until the first rainfall. There is very little time for teams to clean up the area. They don’t have time to prevent dangerous mudslides and other problems, she said.

The Camp Fire is still going in Northern California. Luckily there has been some rain lately. The California fire agency expects to have the fire completely under control on 30 November.

Based on: *www.arcamax.com*

Assignment 2

Read the text. Connect the words and expressions that have the same meaning in the text.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. autumn
 | 1. *a member of a group that works to put out fires*
 |
| 1. usually
 | 1. *areas of land that rise up much higher than the land around it*
 |
| 1. mountains
 | 1. *bad weather with strong wind, a lot of rain and sometimes thunder and lightning*
 |
| 1. dry
 | 1. *in the way that most often happens*
 |
| 1. storm
 | 1. *intended or expected to*
 |
| 1. supposed to
 | 1. *the season between summer and winter*
 |
| 1. firefighters
 | 1. *to become larger, to move into more places*
 |
| 1. extreme
 | 1. *very strong or bad*
 |
| 1. (to) spread
 | 1. *without any water or with very little water*
 |

Assignment 3

a Why did the Camp Fire spread so quickly in Paradise?

1 The town gets many storms during the summer and early autumn.

2 The town had many old buildings that were destroyed.

3 The town had many plants and trees that were dry.

4 The town is in the lower hills of the Sierra Nevada mountains.

b What is the relationship between fires and extreme winds?

1 Extreme winds help prevent fires.

2 Extreme winds help spread fires quicker.

3 Extreme winds make fires less dangerous.

4 Extreme winds spread more rain onto fires.

c How will climate change affect California?

1 Spring and autumn will be drier.

2 Spring and summer will be wetter.

3 Summer and winter will be drier.

4 Winter months will be very wet.