

Handout H01-1 answer key

“A Tale of Two Fires” and “Fire as an Ecological Event”	
1.	Define each of these terms as it is used in the article: <i>millennium, alleged, subterranean, intrinsic</i> .
2.	What are the “two fires” that the author discusses?
	1. The ecological event that burned a huge area of Yellowstone in 1988 2. The human event, including economic and emotional impacts
3.	The author suggests that people should think of Yellowstone as a place that is always changing. What is one of her examples of things that may change?
	The Old Faithful geyser can be changed by what happens underground. Severe winters can change the number and distribution of plants and animals. So can fire.
4.	How did most of Yellowstone’s wildlife respond to the fires?
	Most of them did not flee, but instead they went about their activities as usual. Few were killed by smoke or flames.
5.	What does the author think is the main reason to accept the presence of fires in Yellowstone?
	The main reason is because fires are intrinsic to Yellowstone’s ecology.
“Fire as a Human Experience”	
1.	Define each of these terms as it is used in the article: <i>futile, repository, feasible, mission</i> .
2.	What were the two conflicting messages (“mixed smoke signals”) that park managers sent during the fires?
	1. Persuade the public that the fires were not an ecological disaster. 2. Spend \$120 million to try to put them out.
3.	What did the firefighting efforts accomplish?
	Firefighting efforts protected buildings in the park, but they did not reduce the area burned very much.
4.	Describe two of the hardships for people that the fire caused.
	Here are three: 1. Two people died. 2. Many people were inconvenienced or worried about the park. 3. Local businesses suffered financial losses.
5.	Why does the author say that it is not logical to eliminate fires?
	Eliminating fires would be illogical because they are one of the forces that determine which plants and animals live there.
“Yellowstone in the Year 2000”	
1.	Define each of these terms as it is used in the article: <i>proximity, aptness, trifling, gateway</i> .
2.	The author suggests that the fires were not as “cataclysmic” as other events in Yellowstone. Describe the example she gives.
	Her example is the series of volcanic eruptions 630,000 years ago.
3.	What are dead trees good for?
	Dead trees can provide shelter and a source of food for insects and birds, which then provide food for other animals.