

### What Is Fire?

Lesson 2 of 2

---

**Grade Level:** K-4

**Subjects:** Science, Language Arts

**Prep Time:** < 10 minutes

**Activity Duration:** One class period

**Materials Category:** General classroom

National Education Standards				
Science	Mathematics	Technology		Geography
		ISTE	ITEA	
3a, 3c, 7a				

**Objective:** To create a concept web about fire, and to draw illustrations showing what to do in the event of a fire.

#### Materials:

##### (Per Student)

- Drawing paper
- Crayons/markers
- Student Sheet

#### Related Links:

United States Fire Administration (USFA) Kids Page  
<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/kids/index.htm>



### What Is Fire?

Teacher Sheets

---

#### Background

The basic fire response techniques every individual should learn are “stop, drop, and roll”; plan escape routes with an outside meeting area; and dial 911 for help. When fires happen in space, there are different procedures to know and follow, but the best way to fight a fire is to prevent it from starting. Detecting a fire in space is also different. On Earth, smoke detectors are installed on the ceiling because that’s the direction smoke travels. In space, smoke doesn’t rise, so detectors on the International Space Station are placed within the ventilation system to detect smoke in the air supply.

It is important for young children to be taught the dangers of fires. Teaching children about the dangers of fire and informing them about how to become active in preventing fires may save their lives one day. The Student Sheet has a list of the top 10 fire safety tips for kids.

#### Guidelines

1. Read the K-4 NASAexplores article, “Fire Prevention In Space,” and discuss it.
2. Gather students in a large group.
3. Have students brainstorm “fire.” Conduct an open forum where students share experiences, feelings, and/or ask questions. Conduct this as a discussion, and record students responses, forming a concept web on a piece of paper or on the chalkboard as students contribute their ideas.
4. The following questions should be asked:  
*What Is Fire?* Hot, dangerous, bright, scary  
*How do fires start?* Matches, gasoline, cigarettes, electrical appliances  
*Have you ever seen a big fire?* Some may have seen a fire on television.  
*What are some things that happen when there is a big fire?* Firemen come, there are sirens, and people are trying to help.  
*How are fires put out?* Water, sand, dirt  
*How do you think we can prevent fires?* Smoke detectors, and by not playing with electricity or matches  
*Have you learned any safety tips?* Crawling on the floor during a fire, calling 911, deciding on a meeting place, “Stop, drop, and roll”
5. Go over the top 10 fire safety tips on the Student Sheet.

#### Discussion / Wrap-up

- Refer to the web the students have constructed for a summary. Comment on responses to any of the questions during the discussion that are especially important and that will need to be discussed in further detail. Allow time for the students to ask questions and to clarify any misconceptions.



- Discuss what to do in the event of a fire, using information from the concept web. Have students draw illustrations showing what to do in the event of a fire. Depending on the age, the students can use the computer to write about their illustrations describing their drawings.

### **Extension(s)**

- Make posters that illustrate fire safety to display in the school hallways.
- Have students write poems or stories about fire and its devastation. Allow them a time to share their writings.
- Have students brainstorm and create a chart listing important fire safety tips.

### What Is Fire?

*Student Sheet(s)*

---

### Top 10 Fire Safety Tips

1. Every home must have working smoke alarms on each level and in or near bedrooms.
2. A grown-up should test all smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the “test” button.
3. Every family should practice a home fire drill at least twice a year.
4. Memorize your address and the emergency phone number of your fire department.
5. Matches, lighters, and cigarettes are dangerous—don’t play with them.
6. Kids should only cook under the careful supervision of an adult.
7. Space heaters must have at least 3 feet (1 meter) of clearance from anything that can burn.
8. Candles do not belong in children’s rooms, and only adults should light them.
9. If fire happens, get out and stay out.
10. Stop, drop, and roll if your clothing should catch on fire.

### WHAT'S OUR NUMBER?

# 911

