

# Fighting the Fire

## Comprehension

### Genre

A **Nonfiction Article** gives information about real people, things, or events.

### Summarize

#### Main Idea and Details

The main idea is the most important idea in an article. Details give more information.



**What happens when a fire breaks out in a forest?**

**O**ne day the sky over the **forest** in LaVerne, California, filled with smoke. The people who lived nearby knew what it meant. They knew a fire was close. The smoke made it hard to see and to breathe. People were afraid they would choke.



Firefighters face a wall of fire in California in 2003.

A wildfire can do a lot of damage to a forest. It can kill trees and animals. The people who lived near the forest did not feel **safe**. They hoped that the firefighters would arrive soon.



Firefighters in California fight fires on the ground and from the air.

Firefighters work together to put out forest fires. They try to stop the fire before it damages people's homes. Some firefighters jump from airplanes or helicopters to learn more about the fire. Other firefighters work in helicopters that dump large containers of water onto raging **flames**.

Firefighters help people, too. They **tell** them to get away from the fire. They save people who might be trapped. Firefighters use special clothing to protect their bodies from the **heat**. Firefighters work very hard until the fire is out. They know that people's lives and homes depend on them.

A family watches as flames come near their neighborhood.

## Think and Compare



1. What is the main idea of this article?
2. Why are wildfires harmful?
3. Why are firefighters important people in your neighborhood?
4. After reading this article and "A Special Bear," do you think Smokey can help prevent forest fires? Why or why not?



### Test Strategy

#### Right There

You can put your finger right on the answer. Look for key words.

# Different Ways to Put Out a Fire



Firefighters put out all kinds of fires. In the city, they use fire trucks with long ladders. These ladders help reach people inside tall buildings. They also help firefighters get their hoses closer to the fire.

Wildfires strike on mountains and in forests. It is hard to reach these places. Firefighters use helicopters to fly above the fire. They drop water or chemicals onto the fire to help put it out.

Sometimes fires can start in boats on the water. Firefighters use fireboats to put out this kind of fire. These boats have pumps that use water from the river, lake, or ocean to help put out the fire.

Fire Equipment Chart

Location of Fire	Equipment Used
City	fire trucks with ladders
Forest	

**Directions: Answer the questions.****1. Firefighters use ladders to**

- A fight wildfires.
- B climb mountains.
- C reach people inside tall buildings.
- D drop water.

**Tip**

Look for  
key words.

**2. Why are helicopters used to fight wildfires?**

- A They can fly above a fire.
- B They can pump water.
- C They bring hoses closer to fires.
- D They have ladders.

**3. Suppose a fire starts in a boat on the water.  
Which equipment would be used?**

- A a fire truck
- B a helicopter
- C a ladder
- D a fireboat

**4. How is putting out a wildfire different from  
putting out a fire in a tall building?****5. Summarize the article. Use the chart on  
page 78 to help you write your summary.**

# Write to a Prompt

Write a story about a time when you helped out.



My story has a lot of details.

## Mrs. Clay and the Snowy Day

Mrs. Clay is our neighbor and our friend. She cannot do all the things she used to do. Last winter there was a big snowstorm. The street and the grass all turned white.

My big brother and I wanted to help Mrs. Clay. We asked her if we could shovel her driveway. It was hard work! When we were finished, Mrs. Clay invited us inside her house for some hot chocolate. We were glad we had helped our friend.

# Your Writing Prompt

Have you ever helped anyone? What did you do? How did it make you feel? Write a story about a time you helped someone. Use details to tell your story.

## Writer's Checklist

- Think about your purpose for writing.
- Plan your writing before beginning.
- Be sure your story has details.
- Use your best spelling, grammar, and punctuation.