

# Natural Disturbances

Real World Ecosystems  
Learner Worksheet  
Grade Level: 5-8



Name:

After reading the Natural Disturbance Backgrounder, answer the following questions.

1. Give an example of how a plant or animal in Alberta's boreal forest can adapt to the occurrence of fire.

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2. What positive effects do fires have in the boreal forest ecosystem?

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3. Can you think of natural disturbances in the boreal forest that were not mentioned in the backgrounder? Name as many as you can.

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**4. What might be one benefit of spring flooding of Alberta rivers?**

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**5. If a disease wiped out all the hares in a part of the forest, how would the forest ecosystem change?**

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**6. What are some of the most important forms of disturbance caused by humans?**

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**7. What are cumulative effects and how are they affecting the boreal forest?**

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**8. Compare the boreal forest and tropical rainforest. Describe a major difference in the natural disturbances that each experience.**

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9. Of all human activities that alter ecosystems around the world listed in the backgrounder, which do you think has had the biggest overall impact? Why?

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