

Fire Safety
in
the
Community



Role of the Firefighter

Learning Outcomes

Discuss how individuals and groups can participate in the care of places in a community.

Examine work done by others.

Describe ways in which people co-operate with, and depend on, one another in their work.

Compare ways people obtain goods and services in the local community.

This will be evident when the student:

- ▶ knows firefighters are our friends and helpers; and
- ▶ understands the varied duties of firefighters – both paid and volunteer.

SOSE

Class discussion

Invite a firefighter from your local brigade to visit the class and talk about their role as a firefighter. Prior to the visit, advise the firefighter of any specific clothing or equipment you would like shown and demonstrated to the class group. Ask the firefighter to describe the varied duties they carry out as a firefighter, show and explain the purpose of special clothing worn to fight fires.

Fire brigades are bigger in the cities and towns than in the country as they have more people and houses to protect. Encourage the firefighter visitor to talk about the composition of the local brigade – number of paid and volunteer firefighters – and make general comparisons with city brigades.

Ask the firefighter to talk about the volunteer nature of the CFA. The majority of the CFA is made up of volunteer firefighters. Ask the firefighter if fighting fires is their paid job. If not, ask them what they do during the day. How do they know when there's a fire when they're not at the fire station? Who lets them know? Why did he/she become a firefighter? What does he/she like about being a firefighter?

Focus questions

- ▶ What does a firefighter do?
- ▶ How do firefighters know when there's a fire?
- ▶ What protective clothing do firefighters wear?
- ▶ What makes this clothing special?
- ▶ What equipment is used to put out fires?

Student activity

Concluding the visit, write a class thank you letter to the firefighter. Students draw a picture illustrating something they learnt from the firefighter's visit. Include a brief sentence underneath the picture.

Related Activities

SOSE

Classroom discussion

Role of the Firefighter – Volunteer and Career Firefighters.

Firefighters perform varied duties throughout their shifts. See how many varied duties the students can think of while passing a 'kooch' ball amongst themselves. A different duty is to be named before they pass the ball on. List these duties as they are called out. Classify these under common headings such as jobs at the fire station, helping people, caring for the fire truck and fighting fires.

Some firefighters are paid while others are volunteers. Many large country towns and some metropolitan areas have career firefighters as well as volunteers. Most country areas are protected entirely by volunteer firefighters.

Who are your firefighters? They may be your local banker, butcher, nurse or farmer. When there is a fire they leave their jobs and become firefighters.

Focus questions

- ▶ Who fights fires?
- ▶ Can anyone become a firefighter?
- ▶ How do you become a firefighter?
- ▶ Why do most country towns have mainly volunteer firefighters?

Student activity

Students identify various roles carried out by firefighters on Activity Sheet 10.

Student activity

Using an enlarged CFA logo (logo pictured below), students draw pictures of different roles the CFA carry out in their local community. Paste pictures on the chequerboard squares. Display around the school.

Focus questions

- ▶ Which other emergency service has a similar logo? (police).
- ▶ What is the same/different? (blue and white chequerboard).



English

Student activity

What do firefighters do?

Students fill in the firefighter cloze activity on Activity Sheet 11 to better understand the firefighter's role.

Student activity

Jigsaw Poem.

Read the poem below which outlines a fire scene. Discuss what is happening in the poem. Students put the puzzle back together on Activity Sheet 12 and read the completed fire poem to a partner.

Stop!

Listen to the siren.

Where is the sound coming from?

Look – here comes the fire truck.

Ladders up, hoses out.

Higher, higher, higher.

Water squirts.

Fire out.

Classroom discussion

Various aspects of fighting fires.

Use the “At the Fire” discussion poster included with ‘Fire Safe’ to promote discussion about various aspects of firefighting. This poster shows two fire scenes – one in the city and one in the country. Different types of fire fighting vehicles are pictured in the two scenes. Explain that while the fire fighting vehicles, uniforms and equipment may differ slightly in appearance, the firefighters still have the same function.

If your school is in a CFA area, you might also talk about the volunteer basis of the CFA, i.e. the people fighting the fires have other jobs and attend fires without being paid just to make sure the community is safe.

Focus questions

- ▶ What is happening in the top picture?
- ▶ What is happening in the bottom picture?
- ▶ What is the same about the two pictures?
- ▶ What is different about the two pictures?
- ▶ What do firefighters do at a fire?



- ▶ What equipment do they use to help put out fires?
- ▶ What special things do they wear to protect themselves?
- ▶ If you saw a fire like this, what should you do? (Make sure the children understand they should stay well away).
- ▶ How might these fires have started?
- ▶ How do the firefighters find out about the fire?
- ▶ What kinds of things does a firefighter have to be careful of?

Student activity

Follow up this discussion by having the children write a story about a fire, using the poster as inspiration.

Health

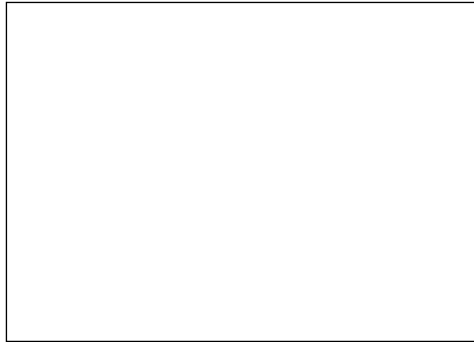
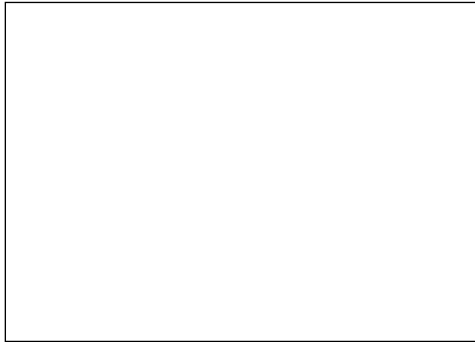
Classroom discussion

Draw up a list of health care providers in your local community and describe their work through role play, painted murals or fabric pictures. Health care providers could include: fire-fighters, police, doctors, community nurses, dentists, child care workers and teachers.

Firefighters

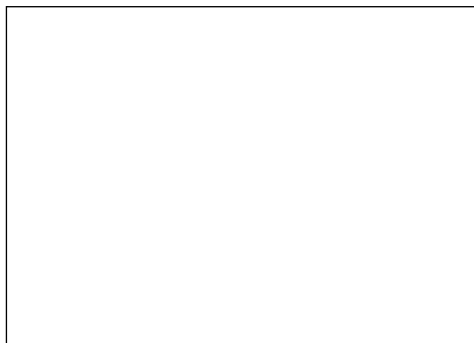
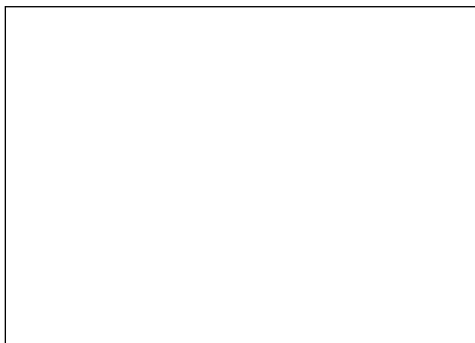
Firefighters have many jobs.

In the boxes below, draw four jobs firefighters do.



Volunteer firefighters have day jobs. They may be butchers, bankers, farmers, teachers or nurses. When there is a fire they leave their jobs and become firefighters.

Draw two firefighters you know at their day jobs.



Firefighters ...

Fill in the missing words from the list below.

Firefighters are our _____.

Firefighters put out _____.

Firefighters _____ people in car crashes.

Firefighters wear special _____.

Firefighters drive the _____.

_____ fires are put out by firefighters.



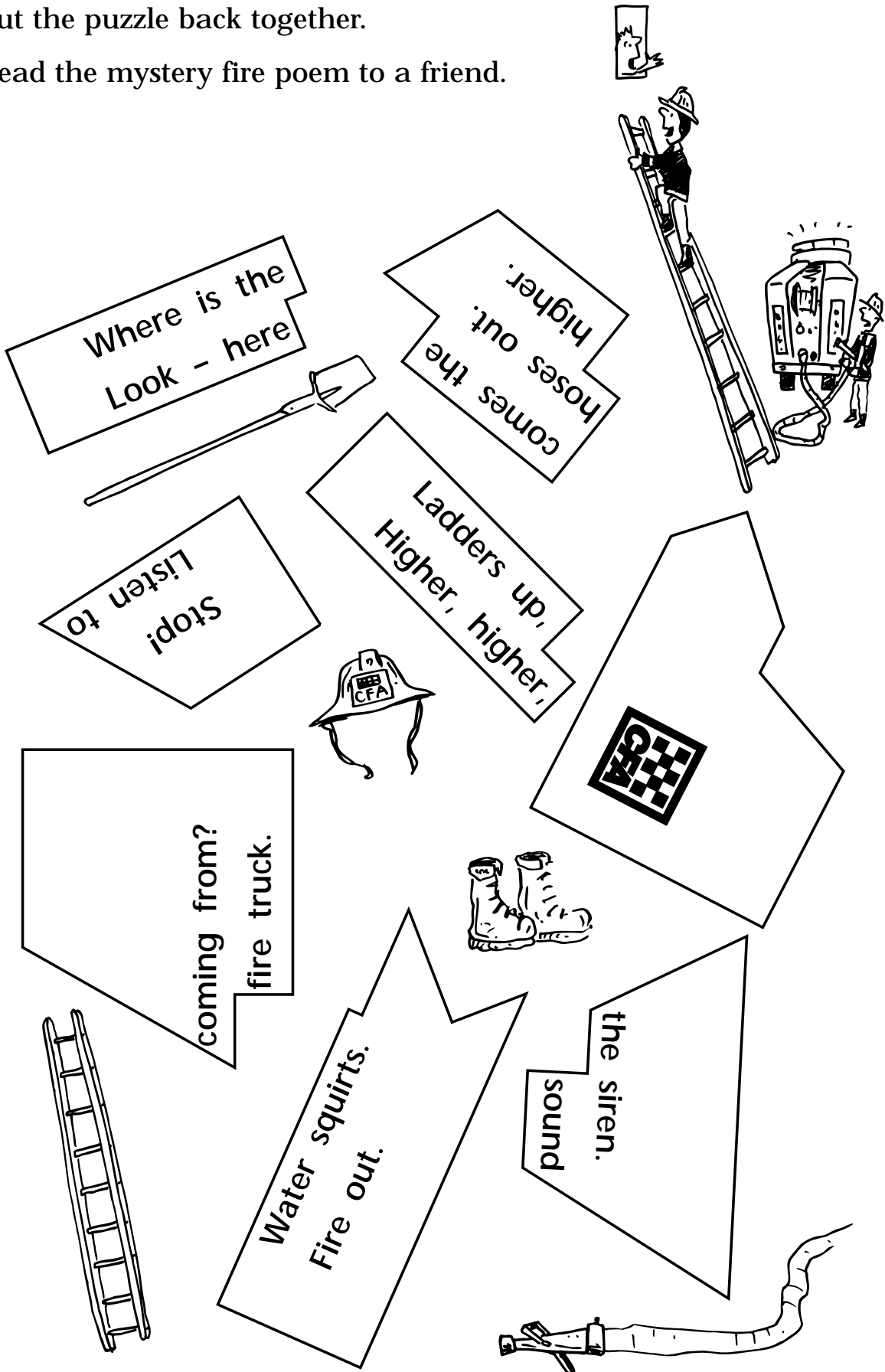
help	clothing	fire truck
House	friends	fires



Jigsaw Poem

Put the puzzle back together.

Read the mystery fire poem to a friend.



Firefighting Equipment and Clothing



Learning Outcomes

Identify the safe use of a range of services and products used to maintain health.

Explain how the places where people live, work and play can influence their health.

This will be evident when the student:

- ▶ recognises and knows the purpose of protective clothing worn and equipment used by fire-fighters; and
- ▶ recognises the fire truck and location of the local fire station.

SOSE

Classroom discussion

Encourage students to visualise their local fire station and what they might find there. In groups, students draw or list what they would expect to find at the fire station. Discuss these lists as a class and combine in a class list. Categorise this class list under general headings such as firefighting clothing, firefighting equipment, fire truck and fire station.

Focus questions

- ▶ What do you know about fire trucks?
- ▶ What do you hear when a fire truck goes to a fire?
- ▶ Why do fire trucks sound their sirens?
- ▶ What should you do when you hear a fire truck siren?
- ▶ Where do firefighters sit in the fire truck?
- ▶ Where is the fire fighting equipment stored?
- ▶ What equipment is used to put out fires?
- ▶ Where do fire trucks get their water?
- ▶ What jobs do you think firefighters do at the fire station?
- ▶ How do firefighters know when a fire is reported?

Student activity

Students visit their local fire station. Point out distinguishing features of the fire station – CFA logo, fire emergency number displayed. Arrange for a firefighter to conduct a brief tour showing the communications room (where emergency calls are received and passed on), storage rooms containing protective clothing and equipment, firefighters' sleeping quarters and the fire truck. The firefighter will also show and talk about the function of the fire truck, including

general equipment carried on the truck – fire ladder, fire hoses, truck cabin, tools held in the storage lockers and will sound the siren.

Ask the firefighter to show and explain the function of special protective clothing worn to fires – woollen jacket, overalls, boots, and helmet. Show the breathing apparatus which provides oxygen to the firefighter so he/she can breathe safely in smoke – explain how it works, whistling sound made when the air cylinder is turned on and voice change when talking through the mask.

Related Activities

SOSE

Student activity

Where is our fire station?

Using playdough, blocks or Lego, build your local fire station and significant landmarks close by. Not all fire stations look the same – some are brick buildings while others are small tin sheds. However, they all have similar identifying features. Students write/stick the fire emergency number on the fire station – 000.

Focus questions

- ▶ How do you know this building is a fire station? (CFA sign, fire brigade number displayed, fire trucks parked inside, firefighters inside ...)
- ▶ What would you find at the fire station?

English

Student activity

Protection from heat, flames and smoke.

We wear different types of clothing for different occasions or activities. In summer, a sun hat protects the face from burning. In winter, a warm coat is worn to keep out cool wind and rain.

In pairs, students list special clothing worn and equipment used to protect them from: getting burnt in summer, getting wet on a rainy day and freezing on a cold wintry day. Students discuss the protective qualities of their listed clothes and equipment in each of these situations.

Focus questions

- ▶ Would the clothes you are now wearing stop you from getting burnt in a fire? Why/why not?
- ▶ What do firefighters wear to stop themselves from getting burnt in a fire?
- ▶ What do firefighters wear to help them to breathe in smoke filled buildings?
- ▶ What equipment do firefighters use to help them put out fires?

Student activity

In groups of four, students list clothing worn by firefighters when fighting fires. Discuss how this clothing protects the firefighter from heat, flames and smoke. Students then list firefighting equipment used to put out fires.

Students separate firefighting clothing from firefighting equipment on Activity Sheet 13.

Student activity

Sing a song about the fire truck.

Write the lines of the song below on poster paper. Sing or chant the lines. Divide the class into two or three groups and sing the song as a round. Add some of your own lines.

*The wheels on the truck go **round and round**,
Round and round,
Round and round.
The wheels on the truck go round and round.*

*The fire ladder goes **up and down**,
Up and down,
Up and down.
The fire ladder goes up and down.*

*Firefighters climb **in and out**,
In and out,
In and out.
Firefighters climb in and out.*

Focus on movement words – round and round, up and down, in and out or opposites – up and down, in and out, over and under, front and back.

Student activity

Fire Riddle Flip Pictures.

Students read the fire riddles on Activity Sheet 14. Reproduce this sheet on thin card. Students cut out the box with the fire riddle and paste it on top of their illustrated answer to the riddle. Students may like to create some of their own fire riddles.

Student activity

Memory Game.

“I went to the fire station and I saw ...”

In turn, students recall named items and add a new item to the list.

Student activity

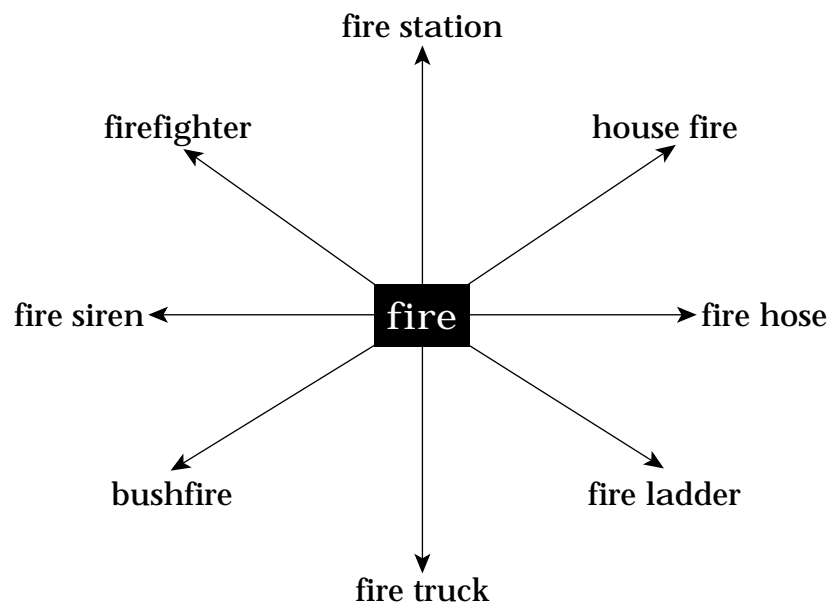
Write a class wall story about your visit to the fire station. Make the wall story into a big book. Students illustrate the pages using collage. Reproduce the wall story into individual books for students to illustrate and read at home.

Student activity

Words Linked by Meaning.

As a class, brainstorm a list of fire-related words which either have 'fire' as a common part of the word or are linked to another word which tells us something about firefighting.

For example:



Art/Craft

Student activity

In groups, make a model fire station, a fire truck and some items of firefighting equipment using materials such as, play dough, plasticine, clay, boxes, pipe cleaners, coloured paper, paint and material scraps.

Student activity

Make fire trucks using large cardboard boxes with the top flaps cut off, red and white paint, paper plates for wheels and lights, heavy string or cord to hook the fire truck over the head, paper fasteners to fix paper plates on the sides of the fire truck and cardboard tubes or stuffed stockings to act as fire hoses.

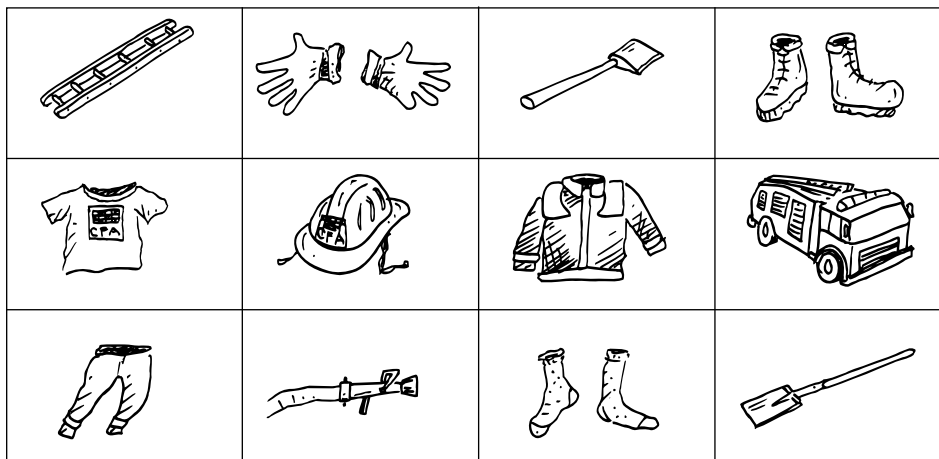
Students race each other in their fire trucks to the imaginary fire outside the classroom. Once at the fire they extinguish it with their pretend water hoses.

What Firefighters Wear and Use

Firefighters wear special clothing and use special equipment to fight fires.

Separate the firefighting clothing from the firefighting equipment.

Match the words with the correct pictures and stick in the correct boxes on the next page.



helmet	fire truck	boots
jacket	hose	ladder
pants	gloves	shovel
axe	socks	t-shirt

Place these words in alphabetical order:

Firefighter's Clothing: _____

Firefighter's Equipment: _____

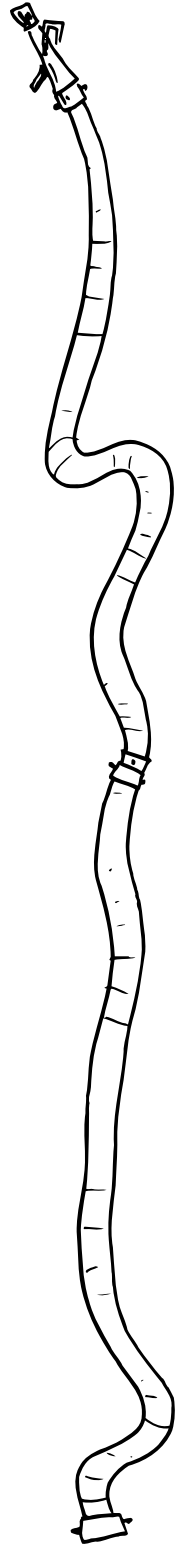
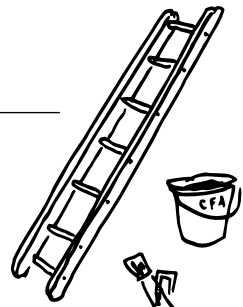
Write a sentence describing how this special clothing protects firefighters at a fire.



Firefighter's
Clothing



Firefighter's
Equipment

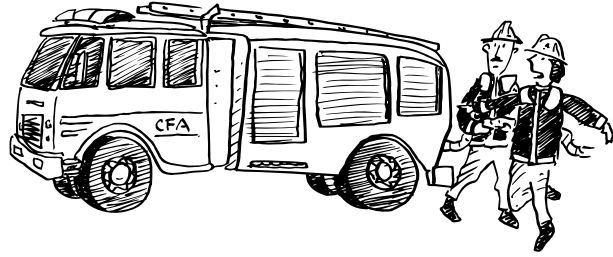


Fire Riddles

What am I?

Read the fire riddle.

Draw a picture showing the answer to your fire riddle in the bottom half of the box.




Cut out the fire riddle along the dotted lines.

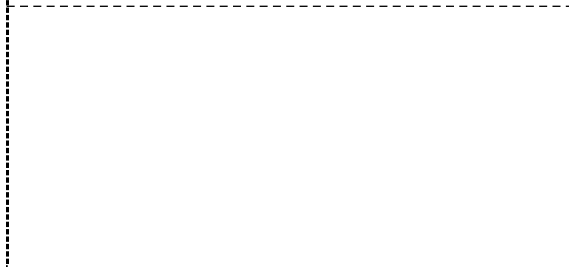
Paste your riddle on top of your picture.


Read your riddle to your friends.



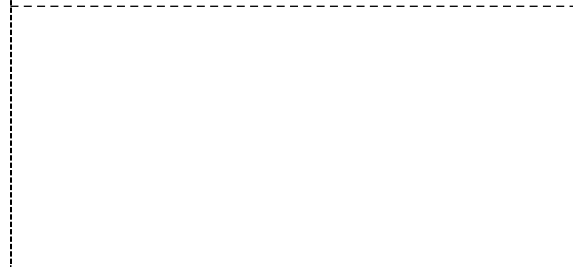



I am red, big, make a loud noise and carry a ladder on top.



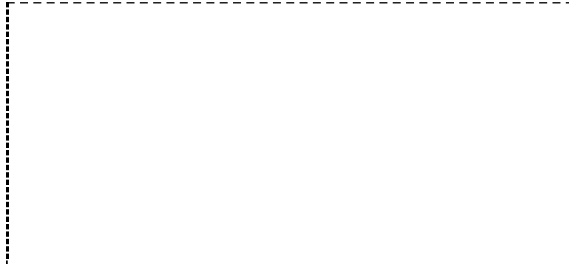



I fight fires.



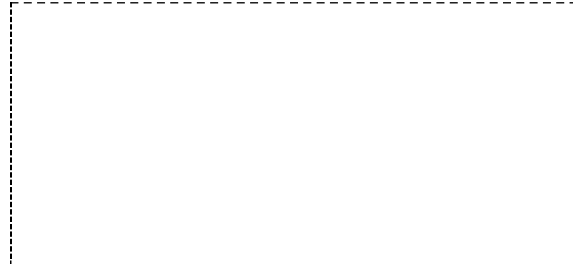


I put out fires.





I am red and very, very hot.



Surprise your friends with some of your own fire riddles.
