



21st Century
TEENS *Senior*²

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Burning down under

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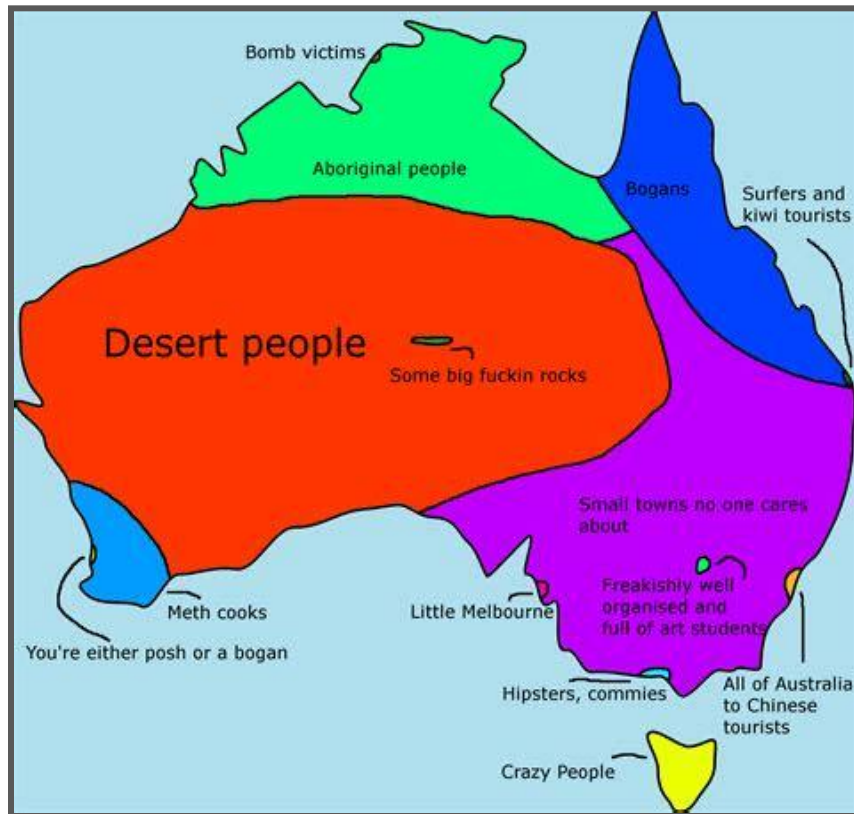
Lead-in

Question 1: Are “bushfires” a natural cycle in Australia?

Question 2: What do you know about the big “bushfire” that started last September?

Question 3: What is the relationship between “climate change” and the risk of wildfire?

Question 4: Is “what we are seeing in Australia” normal? What does that mean to the earth?



A map of Australia

A kangaroo hopping in the wildfire



Burning down under

澳大利亚大火成“地球伤疤”。😊😊

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Australia is no stranger to wildfires. The country's weather patterns create heat and dryness, which fuel **occasional** bushfires in a natural cycle. However, one that started last September continues to burn, and it may not be natural at all. So far, the fire has burned 7.3 million hectares (73,000 square kilometers) of land, killing at least 28 people and destroying more than 3,000 homes in the process, reported the Telegraph. Scientists say that man-made climate change has played a role in the fire's creation and *duration* (持续时间).

"What we have are fires that might have occurred anyway," Peter Gleick, a US climate scientist, told Time. "But the **extent**, the *severity* (严重性), the *intensity* (强度) of these fires is far worse than it otherwise would have

been without the fingerprints of climate change."

According to Australia's *Bureau of Meteorology* (气象局), the country's temperatures have risen by more than one degree Celsius since 1920. The spring of 2019 was Australia's driest in 120 years. In December, the country saw its hottest day ever, with an average temperature of 41.9 C.

"Due to enhanced *evaporation* (蒸发) in warmer temperatures, the *vegetation* (植被) and the soils dry out more quickly," Stefan Rahmstorf, a lead author of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fourth Assessment Report, told Time.

Worse still, researchers at the UK Bureau of Meteorology believe that wildfires like this might become "normal conditions" in

the future, according to the BBC. They looked at 57 research papers published since 2013, which examined the relationship between climate change and the risk of wildfires. They found that the link between the two has already been observed in many parts of the world, including the western US, Canada, southern Europe, and even *Scandinavia* (斯堪的纳维亚半岛) and Siberia.

"These are **impacts** we are seeing for one degree of global climate change. The impact will get worse if we don't do what it takes to *stabilize* (稳定) the world's climate," Corinne Le Quere, a professor from the University of East Anglia in the UK, told the BBC. "What we are seeing in Australia is not the 'new normal'. It's a *transition* (过渡) to worse impacts."

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Gather information

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Q: What can we do to save the earth?

Not use throw-away chopsticks.

Walk more.

Cook at home.

Drive less.

Save electricity.

Eat processed food.

Save water.



Focus on words

According to Australia's Bureau of Meteorology (气象局), the country's temperatures have risen by more than one degree Celsius since 1920.

Raised in the countryside, he knows that he should work hard to earn a bright future.

Rather than trying to predict an unknown future, it is better to do something and make sure you are ready to seize an unexpected opportunity when it arises.

Learn to use

1. It is okay for friends to quarrel sometimes. Problems can _____ if there are disagreements between the two.
2. They decided to climb to the top of the mountain together to see the sun _____.
3. They have a farm in the countryside and _____ a lot of chickens, geese and sheep.

Real or Unreal?

The impact **will get** worse if we **don't do** what it takes to stabilize (稳定) the world's climate.



I was really busy then and I didn't go to the concert. If I **had been** there earlier last weekend, I **could have seen** him in the flesh.



We decide to go for a trip with my friends tomorrow, but it is cloudy today. If it **rains** tomorrow, we **will cancel** the trip.



I **could have made** much progress in English if I **had followed** my tutor's advice.



Be careful with the verb form.

-Thanks for listening.-

Take action now and save
the earth together.

