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SCHOLASTIC News

EDITION
2

GOATS STOP FIRES!

Wildfires can start in fields of dry grass and plants. Goats can stop these fires from spreading. How do you think they do it? (Hint: Look at what this goat is eating.)



My name _____

GOATS SOLVE A PROBLEM!



As You Read

Think about the problem. How are goats a good solution?

In some places, the land is covered with **brush**. Brush is low plants and grass. It burns easily.

A spark or small fire can turn into a **wildfire**. Wildfires are big fires in grassy areas and forests. They can be very dangerous.

These goats are munching on brush. They're getting a nice meal.

They're also a **solution**, or answer, to a problem! How do goats help fight wildfires?

Human Firefighters

In many places, humans solve this problem. Firefighters cut down the brush. They use tools like axes and chain saws.

The tools work well, but they can be heavy to carry around. And the firefighters may have to climb up steep hills with their tools. They can slip and fall or get tired.

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The chain saws make a lot of noise. People who live nearby might not like the noise. And once the brush is cut down, the job is not done. The firefighters have to take it away to get rid of it.

Goats Help!

Some people have come up with another way to solve the problem. They use goats!

They bring the goats to the brush. The goats eat the brush. They don't need tools—just teeth!

Goats are great at climbing up and down steep hills. They don't slip or get as tired as people. They don't make much noise—



wildfire

except for *maahs*! And they don't need to take the brush anywhere else. It just goes in their bellies!

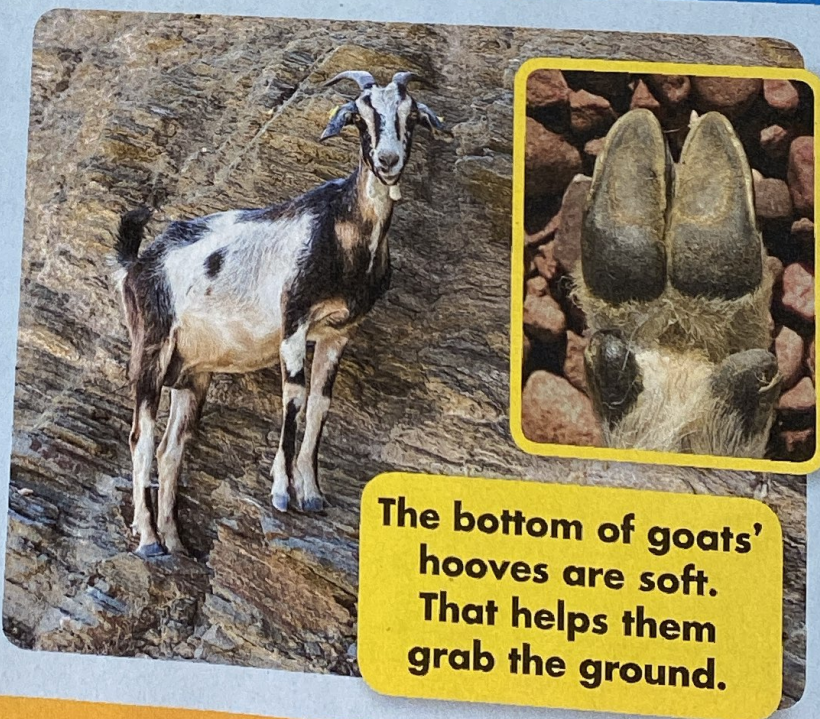
Once the goats eat the brush, the brush is gone. There's no way for the fire to spread. The land is safer. Thanks, goats!

—by Blair Rainsford

FANCY FEET

Goats are great at climbing on steep hills. Why?

Goats' **hooves** are great for climbing. Each hoof has two toes. The toes spread out to help the goat balance. The toes also grab the ground. That keeps the goat from slipping!



The bottom of goats' hooves are soft. That helps them grab the ground.

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Name: _____

Read and Think

Read your issue of *Scholastic News*.
As you read, stop and answer the questions below.



1. Start reading the article. **STOP** at "Human Firefighters."
Why are wildfires a problem?

2. Read "Human Firefighters." Then **STOP**.
What makes dealing with brush hard for human firefighters?

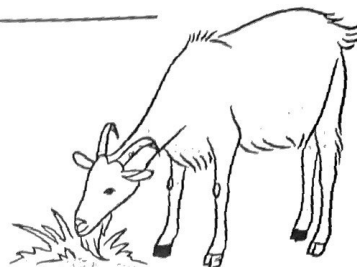
3. Read "Goats Help!" Then **STOP**.
How do the goats get rid of brush?

4. Read the sidebar "Fancy Feet." Then **STOP**.
How do goats use their hooves to climb?

Name: _____

Word Work

Answer the questions about vocabulary words from your issue of *Scholastic News*.



1. Low plants and grass are called _____.

- ☐ wildfire ☐ dangerous ☐ brush

2. How do **wildfires** start?

3. Both firefighters and goats can offer **solutions** to **wildfires**.

What is a **solution**?

- ☐ an answer to a problem
☐ a place where goats eat
☐ a heavy tool

4. Draw one of the solutions to wildfires described in the article.

5. Goats have good balance because of their soft _____.

- ☐ horns ☐ hooves ☐ fur