

# SuperScience

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## A Fiery Focus

In “Into the Fire” (pp. 8-9), you read about Kathleen Navarro’s research into the health effects of wildfires on firefighters. Read the passage below about the wildfires that destroyed the town of Paradise, California, in November 2018. Then answer the questions about both articles.

### Excerpt from “Our Beautiful Town Is Gone”

The story of Paradise, California, and the deadliest wildfire in California history

By Lauren Tarshis

From the September 2019 issue of *Storyworks*

#### “This can’t be happening.”

That’s what 9-year old Eleanor Weddig was thinking as she sat in the car with her father. It was the morning of November 8, 2018, and Eleanor was caught in the middle of what would become the deadliest wildfire in the history of California. All across the town of Paradise, thousands of houses were in flames. Trees burned like giant torches. Ash fell from the sky. . . .

Tragically, the nightmarish scene in Paradise was all too real. Within hours, 85 people would be dead. Nearly 14,000 houses would be burned to the ground. Schools, playgrounds, offices, businesses, the hospital—all would be destroyed. . . .

Wildfires have always been a fact of life in California—and across America’s West. But in recent years, America’s wildfires have become bigger and harder to fight. A major reason is climate change, scientists agree. The weather in California and around the Earth has been getting hotter and less predictable. Many of California’s biggest and deadliest fires have happened

over the past decade. The last five years were the hottest on record. . . .

By 8:30 a.m., panic was spreading through Paradise, and thousands of people began to evacuate. . . . But with every minute that passed, escaping by car became more difficult on roads jammed with traffic. . . .

As the fire burned across Paradise, hundreds of people took refuge in a supermarket parking lot, which Josh Fisher and other firefighters were protecting. Josh stood on his truck, battling back flames with a powerful hose, dousing new fires as they erupted. The heat was unbearable, the smoke so thick it was like breathing fire itself.

The grueling fight lasted for two hours, until finally traffic cleared enough that firefighters could lead the drivers out of town. . . .

The fire burned for 16 more days. It would be nearly six weeks before everyone was allowed back into Paradise to see what remained of their homes. Most found only ash and ruin.

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## A Fiery Focus (continued)

1. Both articles contain vivid, or very detailed, descriptions of wildfires. How are the descriptions of the wildfires in the texts similar? How are they different? Include at least two vivid descriptions from each article.

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2. Both articles are about wildfires, but they have different purposes. What is the purpose of each article? Explain your thinking.

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3. How do the articles give you a clearer picture of what it's like to live and work in an area that has a lot of wildfires?

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4. The *Storyworks* passage notes that climate change, caused by the rise in global temperatures, has made wildfires larger and harder to fight. As temperatures continue to rise, how will that change the lives of California residents and the work of wildland firefighters? Use details from the articles, including the sidebar "What Makes a Wildfire?" (p. 9), to support your answer.

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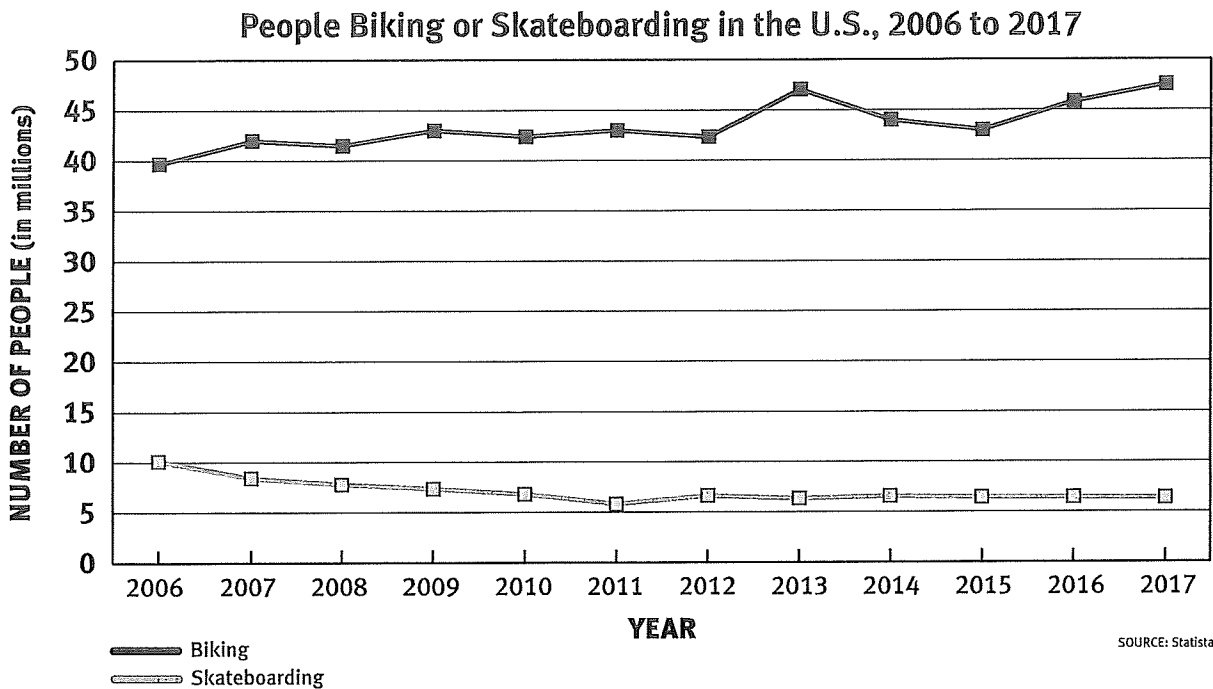
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## Wheeling Around

In “Skating to Success” (pp. 14-15), you learned about how kid inventor Carson Kropfl designed a type of skateboard that fits inside a school locker. The graph below shows the number of people in the U.S. who biked or skateboarded as a hobby from 2006 to 2017. Study the graph, then answer the questions below.



1. What do you notice about the number of people who biked from 2006 to 2017?

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2. What do you notice about the number of people who skateboarded from 2006 to 2017?

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3. About how many people either biked or skateboarded in 2006? In 2017?

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4. About how many more people rode bikes than rode skateboards in 2006? In 2017?

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5. How could Carson Kropfl use the data above to promote his product or launch a new product? Use information from the article in your answer.

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