**Actuele lesbrief Engels – General Sherman**

**Voor de docent**

Enorme bosbranden in Californië komen gevaarlijk dicht bij de beroemde reuzensequioa’s.

**ERK-niveau**

Lezen B1 – *Lezen om informatie op te doen: Kan belangrijke feitelijke informatie begrijpen in korte verslagen en artikelen. ( LEB1-3a)*

Leesstrategieën - *Kan de betekenis van zo nu en dan voorkomende onbekende woorden afleiden uit de context en de betekenis van zinnen herleiden, op voorwaarde dat het besproken onderwerp bekend is.*

**Intro**

Wildfires are raging in California and threatening the giant sequoias.

Assignment 1

Read the assignment and write down the answers in English. You may use English-language Internet sources to help you.

a A tree is a tall plant. Name at least 5 other plants or parts of plants.

b A big wildfire is burning in the Giant Forest in California. It is in the Sequoia National Park. Find the Sequoia National Park on a map. Make a screen shot of the location or print it.

**General Sherman**

The world’s largest living tree is a sequoia named “General Sherman”. It stands in the Giant Forest in California. Wildfires are now burning there. They seem to be getting worse each year.

Read more about the latest fire danger [here](https://newsforkids.net/articles/2021/09/21/giant-trees-wrapped-to-protect-against-wildfires/).

Assignment 2

Read the text. Connect the words and expressions that have the same meaning in the text.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. giant trees | 1. 200 km2 |
| 1. to wrap | 1. to cause to happen |
| 1. wildfires | 1. to cover something by putting a piece of material around it |
| 1. massive | 1. fires in wild areas that spread very quickly and can cause great damage |
| 1. sequoia | 1. in danger, especially of animals or plants that are in danger of dying out |
| 1. intense | 1. a long period of time with very little or no rain |
| 1. substance | 1. a material of a particular kind |
| 1. to trigger | 1. material used to cover something up |
| 1. seeds | 1. move or become near or nearer to something |
| 1. endangered | 1. to remove things from an area or a place to make it empty |
| 1. to approach | 1. small pits made by a plant from which new plants can grow |
| 1. wrapping material | 1. very large |
| 1. 77 square miles | 1. very strong |
| 1. to clear | 1. very tall tree which grows in California |
| 1. drought | 1. very, very big trees |

Assignment 3

a True or false?

Sequoias ...

1 ... all have military names.

2 ... belong to the largest trees in the world.

3 ... can become larger than 300 feet.

4 ... can become more than 3000 years old.

5 ... have killed nearly 14% of the people in California.

6 ... normally die by falling over.

7 ... start many wildfires.

b Wildfires can sometimes help sequoias. How?

1 They clear large areas which make it easier for fire fighters to protect the trees.

2 They help spread the tree seeds and new trees can grow in the place of burnt down trees.

3 They kill the sick trees and make space for new kinds of sequoia trees.

4 They trigger the making of a substance called tannin which helps to keep wildfires small.

c How are the fire fighters protecting the trees? Select all the right answers.

1 They are counting all the wrapping material that they will need.

2 They clear areas around the trees.

3 They have made two fires grew together to become one massive fire.

4 They put special chemicals in the ground to make the trees stronger.

5 They use planes and helicopters to drop water in the area around the trees.

6 They wrap the trees with a special material made of aluminum.