

Wildfires and Sequoia Trees in California

California is known for its frequent wildfires, especially in its forests. The dry climate makes it easy for fires to spread. Each year, there are over 8,000 wildfires. (___1___) these harsh conditions, the sequoia trees survive. Their height helps them resist the fire.

Sequoia trees also benefit from wildfires. (___2___) the heat from the fire, the cones of the sequoia trees open up and release seeds. This process helps in the growth of new trees, making wildfires an important part of the sequoia's life cycle.

1. Each year, there are over 8,000 wildfires. (___1___) these harsh conditions, the sequoia trees survive.

- a) Because
- b) Despite
- c) Although
- d) In addition

2. Sequoia trees also benefit from wildfires. (___2___) the heat from the fire, the cones of the sequoia trees open up and release seeds.

- a) In spite of
- b) Even though
- c) Thanks to
- d) Due to

Landslides

A landslide is a sudden collapse of the side of a hill and can cause great destruction to everything below. Landslides can occur, for example, when heavy rain makes us look moist and slippery or when the ground is disturbed as rapidly changing temperatures freeze and melt it. With the help of gravity, the land involved in landslides travels great distances quickly.

While it is difficult to prevent landslides, people can help by planting trees to hold the ground with their roots, and engineers often build drains inside slopes to allow rainwater to run off without taking land with it.

1) Which of the following is NOT correct?

1. Landslides can cause great destruction.
2. Heavy rain can make the soil slippery and cause landslides.
3. Planting trees can help prevent landslides.
4. Landslides move very slowly.

2) What is one thing humans can do to help prevent landslides?

1. Making the soil moist and slippery.
2. Rapidly changing temperatures.
3. Planting trees to hold the ground.
4. Building drains outside the slopes.