MAIN IDEA

Instructions: Read the passages and find the main idea of each text, then write it on the box below each text.



The Ocean Is Feeling the Heat

More than 80 percent of global warming is absorbed by the ocean, which has a massive capacity to store and release heat. Elevated sea-surface temperatures are causing long-term damage to coral reefs. Corals are bleaching and dying. The IPCC report projects that up to 90 percent of coral reefs could disappear if global warming reaches 1.5ºC (2.7ºF). Another reason corals are in trouble is because of ocean acidification. Higher carbon dioxide levels have shifted the chemistry of the ocean, making it more acidic, and corals and shelled sea creatures have trouble growing in acidic conditions.

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Megafire

Once a rare occurrence, megafires are now becoming more prevalent throughout the world, in large part due to climate change.
In August 1988, high winds changed small, smoldering wildfires in Yellowstone National Park into raging firestorms—an event that came to be known as “Black Saturday.” Today, wildfire experts call the burning of Yellowstone, located in the western United States, something else: a “megafire.” When the smoke finally cleared, a vast area of forest—0.5 million hectares (1.2 million acres), nearly 36 percent of the park—had burned.

The Yellowstone fire focused national attention on a growing wave of big fires eating up forests in the West as well as in other parts of the world. The U.S. Interagency Fire Center defines a megafire by its size: It is a wildfire that burns more than 40,500 hectares (100,000 acres) of land. Other wildfire experts expand the definition of a megafire beyond “acres burned” to mean wildfires that have an unusually large impact on people and the environment.



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