

Man's best friend is on a mission to reforest Chile

Chile is a country with many natural features. You can enjoy the driest desert in the world, go to all kinds of beaches, climb volcanoes, explore glaciers and practise winter sports in The Andes. Sadly, it is also a country that suffers a lot of wildfires.

Last year, over 100 different wildfires destroyed more than half million hectares of forest in Chile. This was the worst wildfire season. According to government officials, the fire's rapid spread was worsened by steady winds and warm, dry weather that came as the country experienced its worst drought on record.

2019 was the year with the lowest rainfall in history in Chile. It was a chaotic situation, but Francisca and Constanza Torres decided to help with the reforestation of their country. These Chilean sisters started sowing trees to heal forests devastated by wildfires with the help of their three dogs.

Das, Olivia and Summer, three border collies, were trained to run through the damaged forests with special backpacks that release seeds belonging to native trees. Once they take root, these seeds will help regrow the destroyed area.

The sisters explain that the border collies can drop around 9.1 kilogrammes of seeds a day, making them more efficient than humans. The dogs can easily cover 30 km in a single day and this important task is not seen as work to them. They love to run and need to exercise each day.

(Adapted from UPM, Tamara Ubilla, 2021)

WRITE IF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE TRUE, FALSE , OR IF THE TEXT DOESN'T SAY

- In Chile there aren't any beaches. TRUE FALSE DOESN'T SAY
- Chile often suffers wildfires. TRUE FALSE DOESN'T SAY
- In 2019 it hardly ever rained. TRUE FALSE DOESN'T SAY
- Das, Olivia and Summer are sisters. TRUE FALSE DOESN'T SAY
- The sisters' idea helps to stop wildfires TRUE FALSE DOESN'T SAY

WRITE ONE OF THE WORDS IN BOLD FOR EACH PICTURE:

DESERT - BEACHES - VOLCANOES - GLACIERS - WILDFIRES - WINDS

DROUGHT - RAINFALL - ROOTS

