- Why do you think that vegetation in the areas that were burned before the growing season regrew faster than vegetation in the areas burned during the growing season?

Implications

The judgments that people make about something may depend upon the length of time between the event and their judgment about it. This is the case for judging whether prairies are resilient to fire. Immediately after a fire, the prairie looks very different. Its grasses are gone and there are few rodents living there. After 2.5 years, the prairie has recovered so much that a person can hardly tell that a fire ever occurred. If a person's timeframe for judging resilience is a few months, the prairie is not resilient to fire. If a person's timeframe for judging resilience is a few years, the prairie is resilient to fire. Since wildfires are a natural part of what happens on a prairie, it is no surprise that over time the prairie is resilient to fire. Think about your own judgments. When you have an argument with a friend or you make a lower grade than you expected, you immediately judge the event one way. Later, after you have had time to think about it, your judgment may change. Thus, when making a judgment about an event, people should always remember that the judgment may change, depending on how long after the event it is made.

Reflection Section

- Are your fingernails resilient to breakage? How do you know? Do they seem resilient immediately after being broken?
- How are broken fingernails like a prairie that has been burned by a wildfire? How are they different?

Discovery FACTivity

The question you will answer through this FACTivity is: What are some similarities and differences in examples of resilience? The method you will use to answer this question is: Divide your classroom into three or four groups. Each group will take 10 minutes to observe examples of resilience in your classroom and outside your classroom window. For example, remember that your fingernails are resilient to breakage. Another example might be the grass outside, which is resilient to being cut. In each case, estimate the amount of time it takes for the resilience to show, or for the thing to appear as it did before the sudden change occurred. Record your observations using the form on the next page.

Now, compare the lists that each group developed. What are the similarities between all of the resilient objects? How are they different? Compare the amount of time it takes for the resilient items to show resilience. What does this exercise tell you about the characteristic of resilience?

For more information about fire resilience in Yellowstone National Park, visit www.discovery.com/stories/nature/yellowstone/yellowstone.html.

From Ford, P. L. (2001). Scale, ecosystem resilience, and fire in shortgrass steppe. Pp. 447-456. In: *Ecosystems and Sustainable Development III*. C.A. Brebbia, Y. Villacampa, and J-L Uso (eds.). Series: Advances in Ecological Sciences, Vol 10. WITPress Southampton, Boston. 824 pp.

Form for Recording Resilience.

Object	Sudden change event	Time needed for resilience to show

Fire Safety Tips from Smokey and His Friends at the Texas Forest Service

Sometimes people want to burn trash or other debris (duh **br**e) in the out of doors. It is important to be careful when burning debris. If such fires get out of control, a wildland fire may result and homes may be damaged or destroyed. Local governments may have restrictions on when or if trash and debris can be burned outdoors. Only adults should burn trash or other debris. Before the adults in your household start any outdoor fires, they should check with their local government. If an outdoor fire is allowed, here are tips for safe outdoor burning:

1. Never burn trash or debris on dry, windy days.
2. Check to see if weather changes are expected, especially if windy conditions are likely to occur.
3. Before burning, clear the area around the place where the fire will be, up to 5 feet, of any burnable materials, such as leaves and sticks. Larger fires will require larger areas to be cleared out.
4. Stay with all outdoor fires until they are completely put out.
5. Never attempt to burn aerosol cans. Heated cans will explode and may cause human injury.