

'Fabish: the horse that braved a Bushfire'

Unfortunately the Black Saturday bushfires caused Australia's highest ever loss of life from a bushfire. **Fabish, a horse that braved a bushfire** tells a remarkable story of survival from the firestorm. Read the information on the bushfires in **Fabish, a horse that braved a bushfire** and then mark the statements as true or false.

	True or False?
1. The Black Saturday bushfires occurred on February 7 th 2010.	
2. 173 people died as a result of the bushfires.	
3. On Black Saturday there was one massive bushfire.	
4. The Murrindidni Fire was 900 metres high.	
5. Trees were snapped in half by winds created by the fires.	
6. The Black Saturday bushfires burned out 300,000 hectares of land.	
7. The fires reached temperatures up to 1500°C.	
8. The fires effected areas including Narbethong, Marysville and Kilmore.	
9. The Murrindidni Fire travelled at 40km per hour.	
10. The white cirrus cloud from the Kilmore fire was 8500 metres high.	

1. False (February 7th 2009), 2. True, 3. False (there were 592 fires), 4. True, 5. True, 6. True, 7. False (temperatures of 1200°C were reached), 8. True, 9. True, 10. False (pyro-cumulus cloud)

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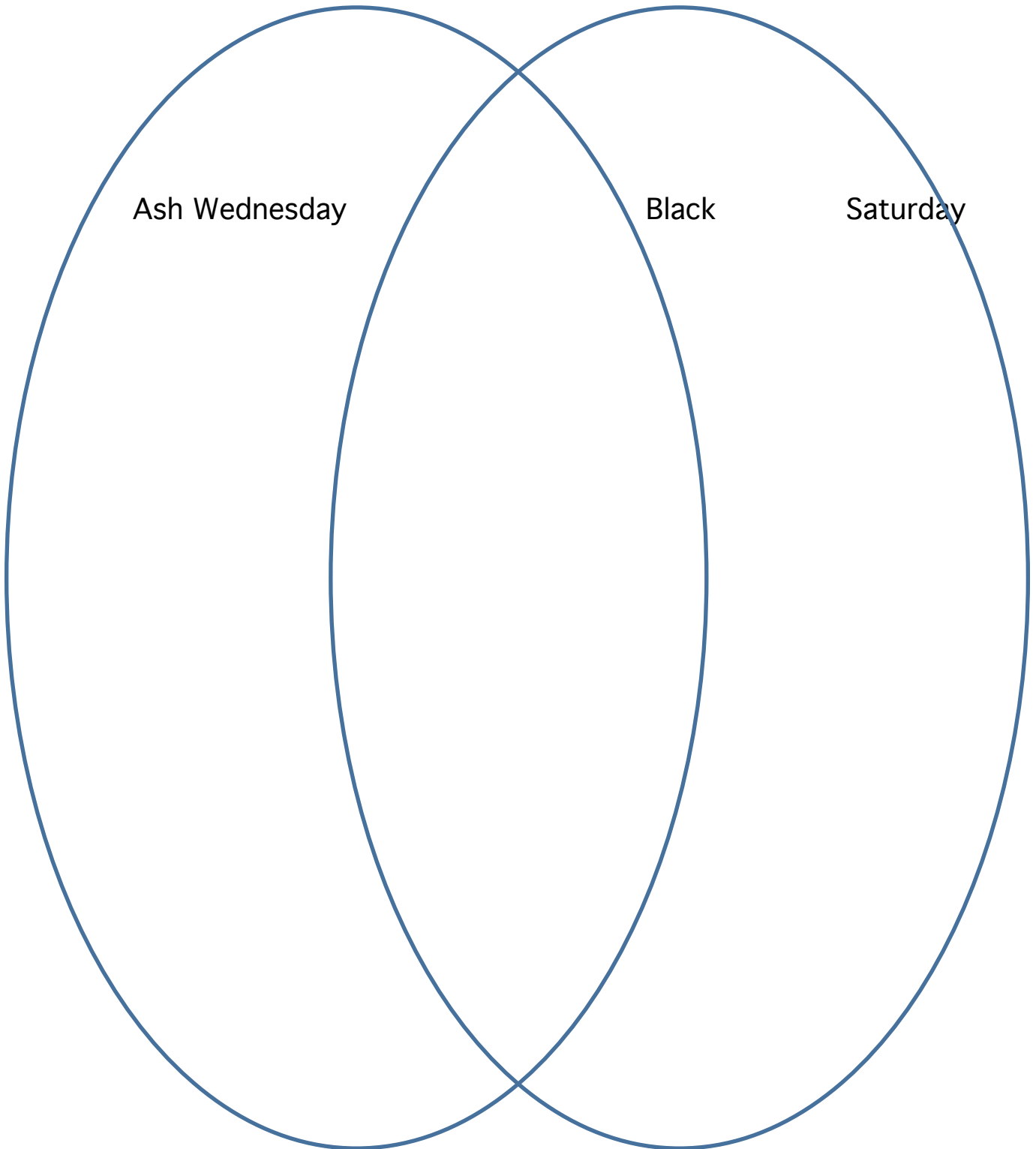
Unfortunately the Black Saturday bushfires caused Australia's highest ever loss of life from a bushfire. **Fabish, a horse that braved a bushfire** tells a remarkable story of survival from the firestorm. Read Fabish's story in **Fabish, a horse that braved a bushfire** and then mark the following statements as true or false.

	True or False?
1. Fabish was a 14 year old retired police horse.	
2. Fabish won five races at Caulfield Racecourse.	
3. Living at Cliff Brown's horse training complex, Fabish was training for his next race at the time of the Black Saturday bushfires.	
4. Yearling horses have not celebrated their first birthday.	
5. Alan Evett could only squeeze 21 horses into the stables on the day of the fires.	
6. The stables sheltering Alan and his horses were the only buildings at the training complex that survived the fires.	
7. Fabish and the other horses returned with some injuries but they had survived.	
8. Yearling horses are typically flighty and a bit jumpy.	
9. Fabish has a calming influence on the younger horses.	
10. Cliff Brown's horse training complex is called Tarnpirr Farm.	

1. False (retired racehorse), 2. False (he won 1 race at Caulfield), 3. False (Fabish was retired), 4. (Yearlings are between 1 and 2 years old), 5. True, 6. True, 7. False (they had no injuries), 8. True, 9. True, 10. True

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The Black Saturday bushfires are not the only bushfires that have devastated Victoria. The Ash Wednesday fires also caused heartache, death and destruction in large areas of the state. Complete the Venn diagram by adding facts about each of the bushfires. Facts about Ash Wednesday should be written in the circle on the left. The circle on the right is for facts about Black Saturday. In the space where the circles overlap, add facts that are relevant to both bushfires.



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Fabish led the 7 yearlings to safety. The other horses followed Fabish, 'maintaining their single file formation, their heads held low up against the tail in front of them.' Help Fabish lead the younger horses to safety again by navigating a path through the grid. You must follow the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and then 7 before starting the pattern again, 1 and then 2 and so on. Your path can go up, down, left, right or diagonal.

Fabish

1	2	7	4	3	1	5	5	6	2	6	3	1	5	2
2	3	1	1	6	7	1	7	5	3	4	6	2	4	4
3	4	5	2	7	6	4	3	7	1	3	1	3	6	1
5	7	6	4	2	1	2	5	6	2	1	4	4	7	2
6	1	7	1	6	7	3	4	3	3	2	4	3	5	3
2	2	3	4	5	6	6	2	7	4	1	5	2	7	1
3	5	6	5	7	4	5	7	6	5	3	4	5	6	4
1	2	6	q	4	6	2	1	4	3	5	7	3	1	2
5	3	7	1	2	4	3	2	3	1	6	4	6	2	3
7	1	3	4	3	7	4	3	7	6	5	3	1	5	4
3	4	7	3	7	6	5	7	4	2	1	6	2	1	3
1	6	2	1	2	4	1	2	7	1	4	4	5	3	5
4	7	1	5	1	3	2	5	3	7	3	7	6	4	5
5	2	6	1	4	5	6	7	1	2	2	1	7	3	6
1	2	4	3	2	7	1	5	4	6	3	4	1	2	7

Safety

‘Fabish: the horse that braved a Bushfire’

Neridah McMullin does an excellent job describing the destruction caused by the Black Saturday bushfires in ***Fabish, a horse that braved a bushfire***. Find examples from the text that describe the effects of the bushfires. Write the examples on the lines below. The first one has been done for you.

The soil baked hard like charcoal.

Imagine an area that has been hit by another natural disaster such as an earthquake, tsunami, cyclone, flood, volcano or landslide. Write sentences that describe the destruction caused by the natural disaster.

Natural disaster chosen: _____

On the back of this page, join your sentences into a paragraph that describes the scene after the natural disaster hit.

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The fires roar became louder and louder until it was primal screaming.

Trees were stripped and blackened.

Above are two examples from ***Fabish, a horse that braved a bushfire*** that describe the destruction caused by the Black Saturday bushfires. Imagine an area that has been hit by another natural disaster such as an earthquake, tsunami, cyclone, flood, volcano or landslide. Using the five senses, write what someone who is caught in the disaster would experience:

See:

Hear:

Feel:

Smell:

Taste:

Using all the notes you have made, write several paragraphs describing what a person in the middle of the natural disaster experiences, as if they are experiencing it as you write.

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Fabish is a very brave horse. Over history there have been other horses that have achieved remarkable feats or gained fame through other means. Use the internet to help you determine the horses below and then find their name in the find-a-word. Answers in the find-a-word can be forwards, backwards or diagonal.

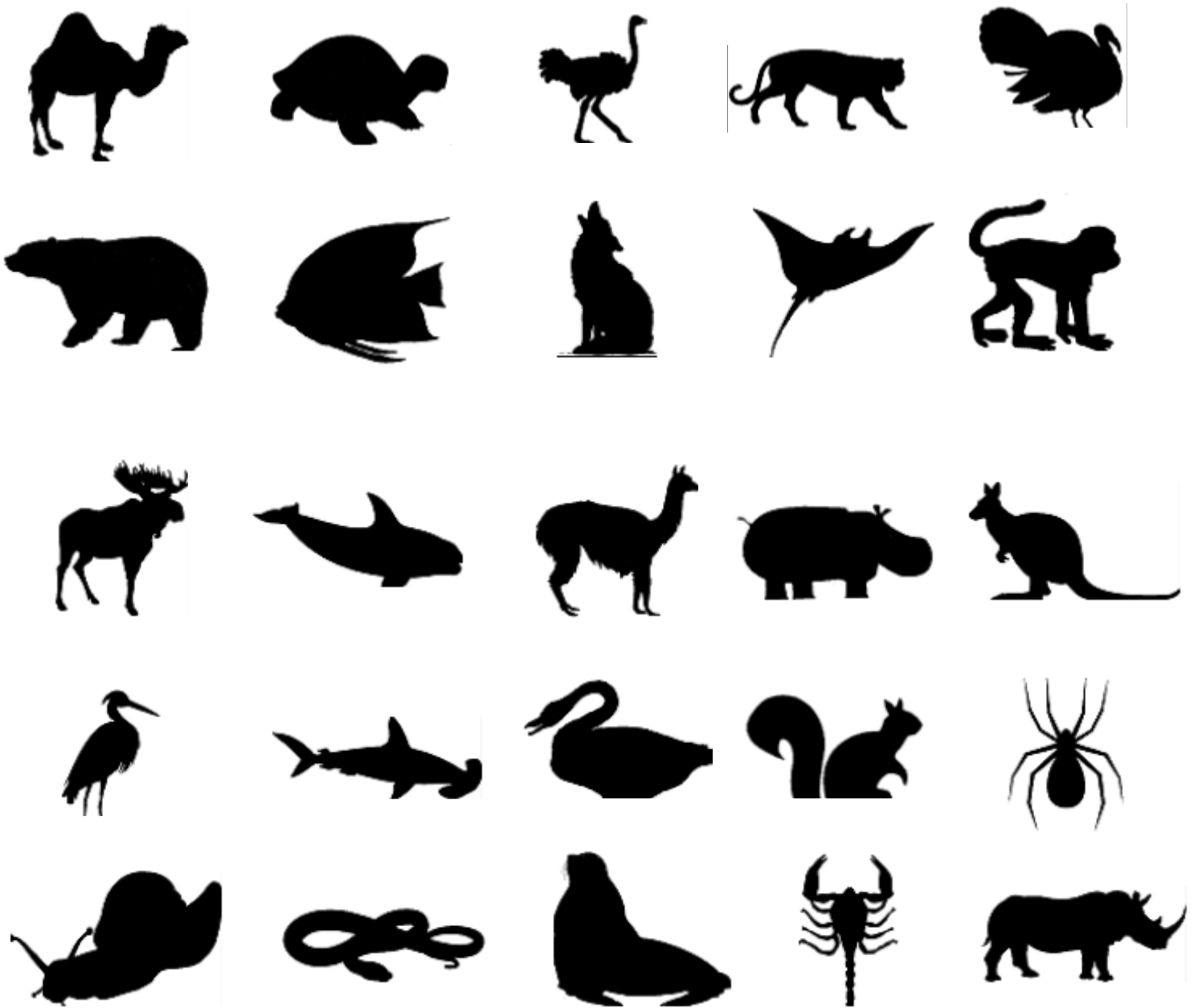
B	L	N	O	R	S	E	M	A	N	P	E	I	B	D
B	R	O	W	N	B	E	A	U	T	Y	S	N	U	G
M	E	B	H	I	D	N	G	J	F	L	M	C	C	A
I	C	H	A	M	P	I	O	N	E	T	D	I	E	R
K	A	V	I	D	E	B	Y	K	A	M	E	T	P	H
E	F	H	M	O	R	H	U	A	V	N	M	A	H	O
P	S	V	T	R	I	G	G	E	R	U	A	T	A	I
A	R	N	E	F	E	O	B	L	S	E	H	U	L	B
O	D	U	K	W	B	D	A	R	W	P	U	S	U	J
G	L	T	R	M	C	I	E	B	U	R	M	E	S	E

1. Favourite horse of Alexander the Great: B _ _ _ _ _
2. A TV star with his own show who could ‘talk’: M _ _ _
3. Roy Rogers’ horse that was said to be ‘the smartest horse in the movies’: T _ _ _ _ _
4. Could jump through paper-covered hoops and worked with the singing cowboy: C _ _ _ _ _
5. Queen Elizabeth II rode me in the Trooping the Colour ceremony for nearly two decades: B _ _ _ _ _
6. Paul Revere rode me during his midnight ride: B _ _ _ _ B _ _ _ _
7. Could find the cube roots of numbers after training from Karl Krall: M _ _ _ _ _
8. Eighteen servants tended me in my stable of marble. My owner was Caligula: I _ _ _ _ _
9. I won three straight Melbourne Cups: M _ _ _ _ D _ _ _
10. A town in Western Australia is named after me because I discovered gold there: N _ _ _ _ _

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Through the fog of the smoke was the unmistakable outline of a horse he knew well. Clomping through a carpet of ash, a sooty old grey horse appeared before him. His head held down low and his neigh rumbled slowly.

The trainer spots the outline of Fabish through the smoke after the fires. How good are you at identifying the outlines of animals? Test your skills by naming the animals below.



- Line 1: camel, tortoise, ostrich, tiger and turkey
- Line 2: bear, angelfish, coyote, manta ray and monkey
- Line 3: moose, killer whale, llama, hippopotamus and kangaroo
- Line 4: heron, hammerhead, swan, squirrel and spider
- Line 5: snail, snake, seal, scorpion and rhinoceros

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The trainer decided to stay and protect his property during the Black Saturday bushfires. He was prepared by soaking horse blankets in water and moving to the safest building. The Country Fire Authority recommends that houses in danger of bushfires should have a fire plan. The following questions are from their website (cfa.vic.gov.au) and will help your family to plan for a bushfire.

1. Which fire danger rating will be the signal to leave your house?

2. Where will you go if you leave your house?

3. What will you take with you?

4. Who do you need to keep informed of your movements?

5. Is there anyone outside your household who you need to check on or help?

6. How will your family stay informed about warnings and updates?

7. What is your plan if there is a fire in your area and you cannot leave your house?

In the space below, use the cfa.vic.gov.au website to make a list of things your family can do before the bushfire season to maintain your house and property: