

CELEBRITIES LOSE HOMES IN L.A. WILDFIRES

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/crmnm2g1z74o>

Warm-up

1. Introduce the topic and elicit information about the recent California wildfires.
2. Mention some of the celebrities who have lost their homes or show their pictures on the online BBC News article and elicit information about them, their lives and careers: Jeff Bridges, Mel Gibson, Sir Anthony Hopkins, Paris Hilton, Billy Crystal, Adam Brody, Milo Ventimiglia, Eugene Levy, James Woods, Dua Lipa, Mark Owen etc.



1) Scan reading task

Read the following questions and find the information as quickly as possible (2 minutes):

1. Where in L.A. do Jeff Bridges and Mel Gibson live (and Paris Hilton's and Rosie O'Donnell's)?

2. How many homes has Sir Anthony Hopkins lost?

3. Where in L.A. were Sir Anthony Hopkins houses (and Billy Crystal's and Miles Teller's)?

4. What happened to James Woods' and Jamie Lee Curtis' homes?

5. Look at the maps of New York and London. How big are the LA wildfires compared to these two cities?

2) Reading & Vocabulary Work

Look at the vocabulary list in the glossary of the blog English, News and Culture (<https://englishnewsandculture.blogspot.com>). Choose 2 terms that you would like to learn, read the BBC News story and underline them. Then, try to guess their meaning in pairs

(different pairs or groups can discuss different words). Finally, you can discuss some of these words together as a class.

3) Listening Comprehension Task

Read the questions below and watch the Inside Edition video “Billy Crystal Heartbroken After Home Burned Down in LA Fire” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVmdVRbdZp0>). Discuss the questions in pairs.



1. Whose family is heartbroken?

2. Whose home has been reduced to “a pile of charred wreckage”?

3. Whose car has become “a burned-out shell”?

4. Who found out that her house had burnt watching the news?

5. What happened to Inside Edition’s Lisa Guerrero’s home?

4) Discussion

After doing the listening comprehension task, you can discuss these questions in pairs:

- Do you know anything else about the celebrities that are mentioned in the BBC News story?
- What do you know about the places that are mentioned in the text: Los Angeles, Hollywood, Malibu and Pacific Palisades?
- Why do these celebrities choose to live in Hollywood, Malibu, Los Angeles etc, rather than elsewhere in the U.S.A.?
- Do you know of any other star who has lost their home in the wildfires?
- The reporter in the video says that she is “fortunate” by “sheer luck”. Can you think of a moment when you were also “fortunate by sheer luck”?
- Why are these wildfires so fierce nowadays?
- Does climate change play any role in the spread of these huge wildfires?

ANSWER KEY (BBC News). Scan reading (1)

1) In Malibu

- 2) Two homes
- 3) In Pacific Palisades
- 4) They are safe/ they are still standing
- 5) A considerable part of both New York and London (a large part of Manhattan & Brooklyn in New York and a good portion of Southwark & Whitechapel in London)
(Note that the names of the London districts do not appear on the map!)

ANSWER KEY (BBC News). Vocabulary Work (2)

Check the online dictionary links.

ANSWER KEY (Inside Edition video on YouTube). Listening Comprehension (3)

- 1) Billy Crystal's
- 2) Sir Anthony Hopkins'
- 3) Miles Teller's
- 4) Paris Hilton
- 5) It's standing, it is still there.