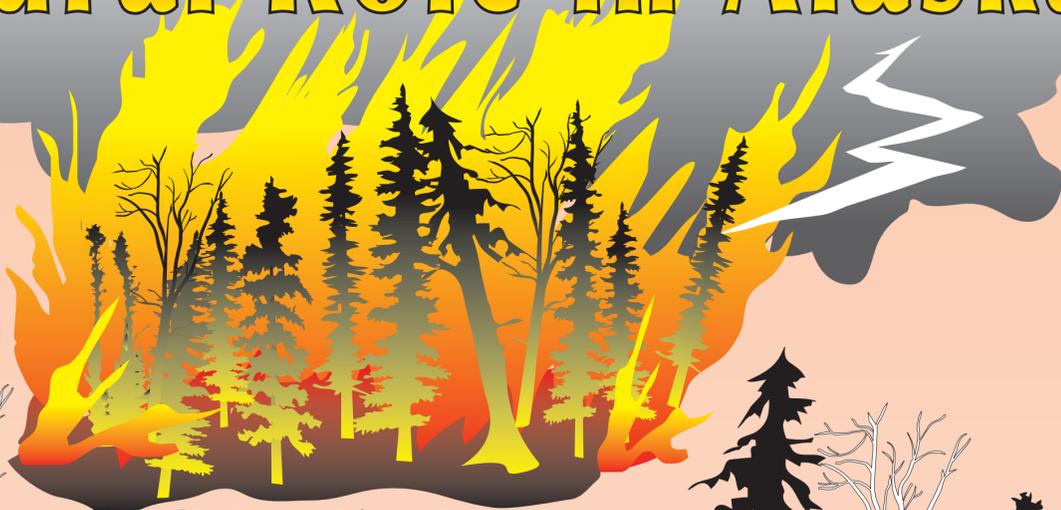


# Fire's Natural Role in Alaska

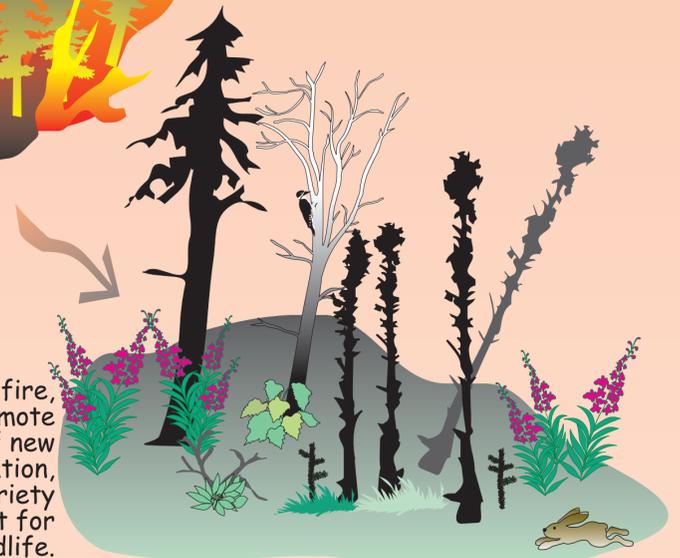


Fire is essential to maintain and restore healthy habitats. Fire specialists manage prescribed fires and natural fires started by lightning.



151 - 300 Years: Spruce Forest with Old Trees

Old forests have less variety of plants and animals, but some unique species. As forests age they are prone to outbreaks of insects and disease.



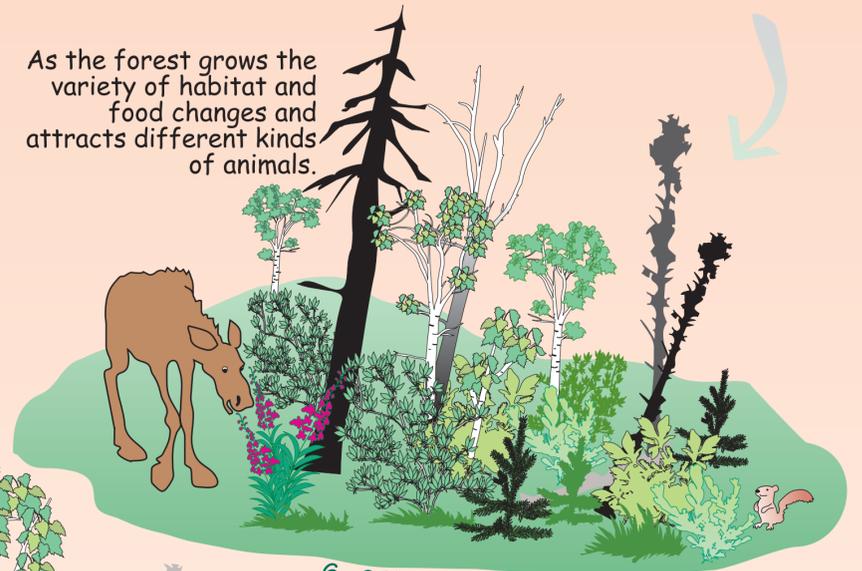
0 - 5 Years: Herbs, Shrubs & Seedlings

After a fire, nutrients promote growth of new vegetation, creating a variety of habitat for wildlife.



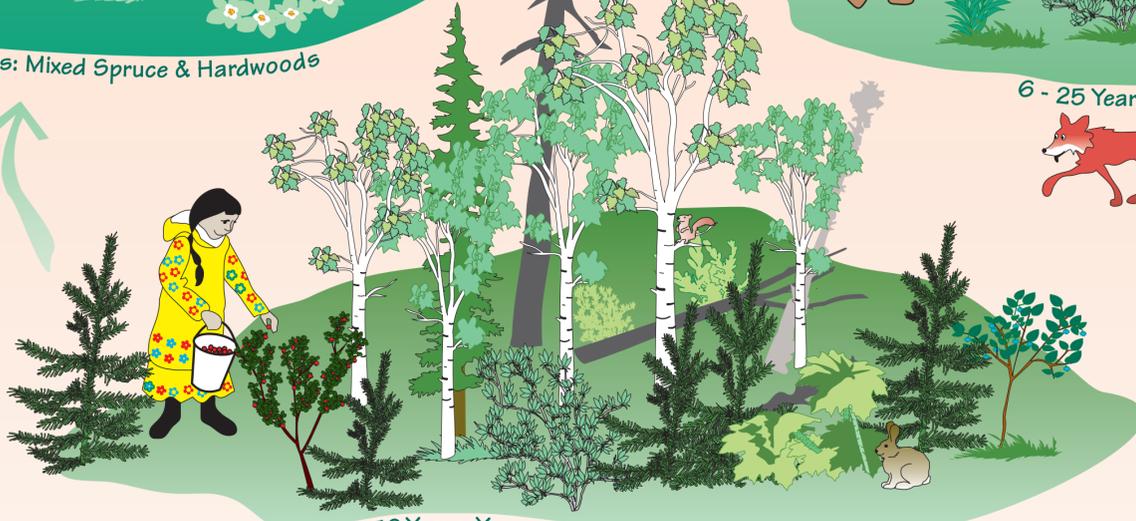
51 - 150 Years: Mixed Spruce & Hardwoods

Some wildlife use older forests as habitat while others like to live among young trees and shrubs.



6 - 25 Years: Shrubs & Saplings

As the forest grows the variety of habitat and food changes and attracts different kinds of animals.



26 - 50 Years: Young Forest of Dense Trees & Shrubs



For more information: Visit the Role of Fire in Alaska curriculum at <http://alaska.fws.gov/fire/role>