NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Oregon Forest Resources Institute

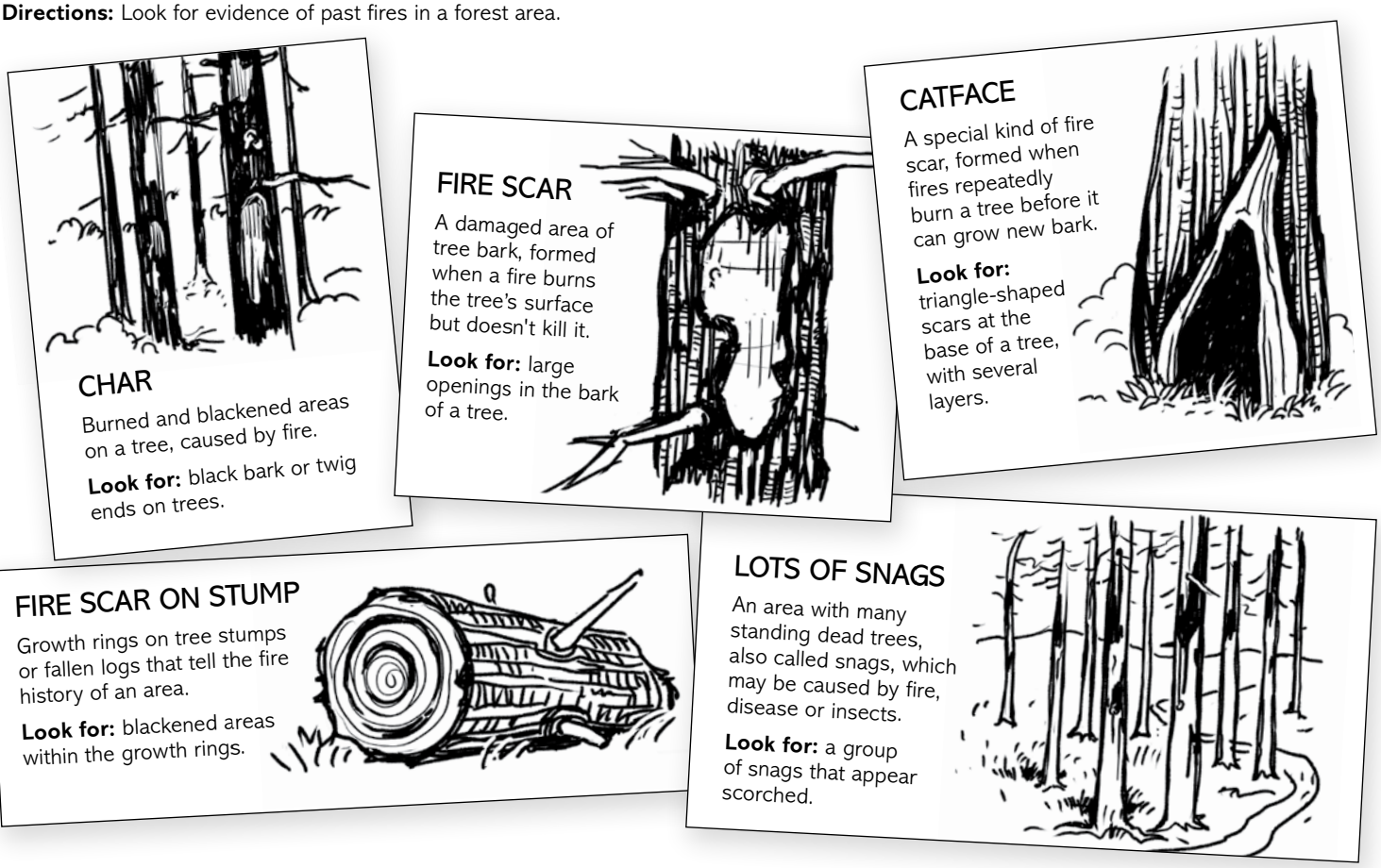
DETECTING PAST FOREST FIRES

Fires are a natural and necessary part of Oregon's forests. They:

- form openings in the forest that enable a variety of plants to grow
- create standing dead trees (called snags) that many animals rely on for food and shelter
- help fire-adapted plant species* reproduce by opening their cones or triggering their seeds to grow

*Being "fire-adapted" means having behaviors or characteristics that enable an organism to live, or even thrive, with repeated fires.

Directions: Look for evidence of past fires in a forest area.



Questions:

What evidence do you see of the forest recovering from past fires?

How might fire have helped this forest?