



Topography & Fire



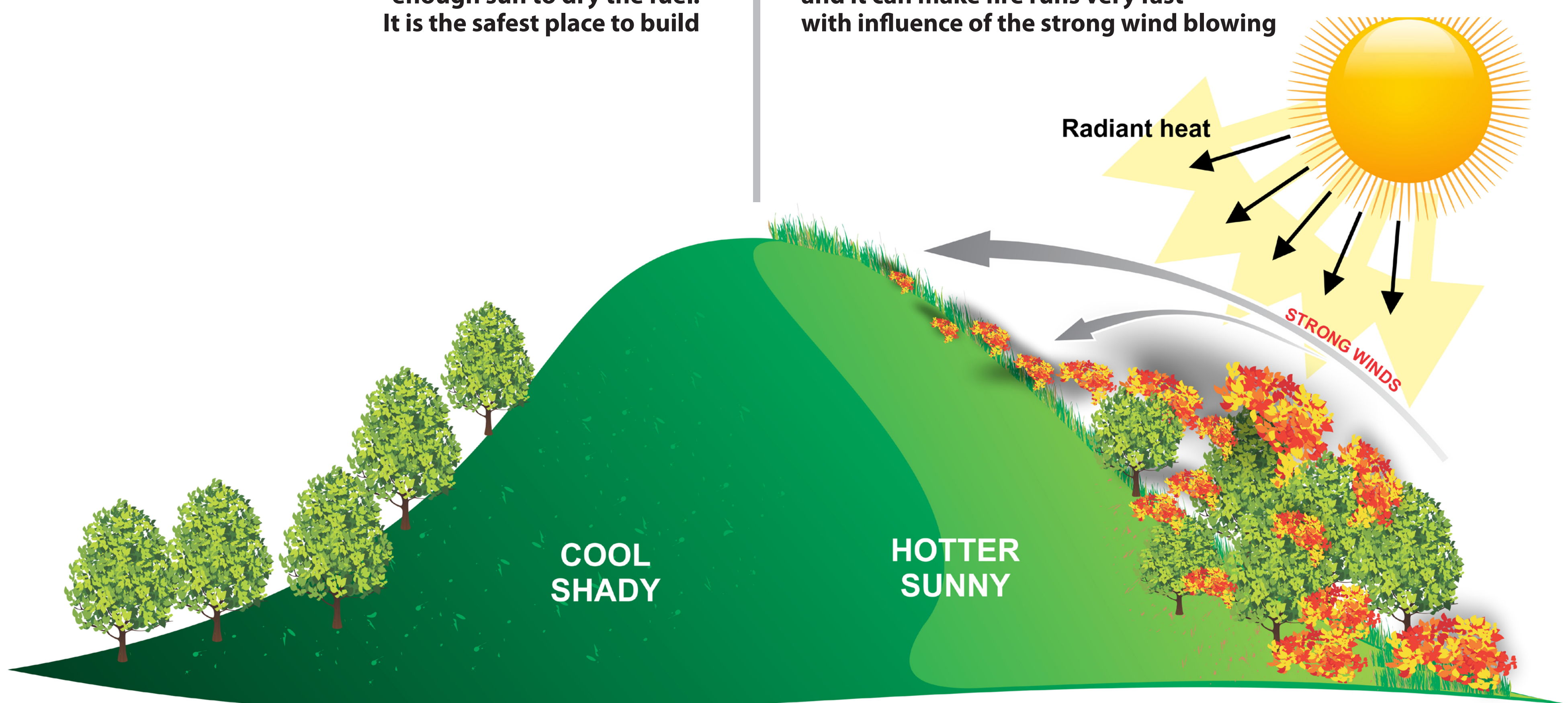
Slopes and fire risks

South facing slope

South facing slope is not getting enough sun to dry the fuel. It is the safest place to build

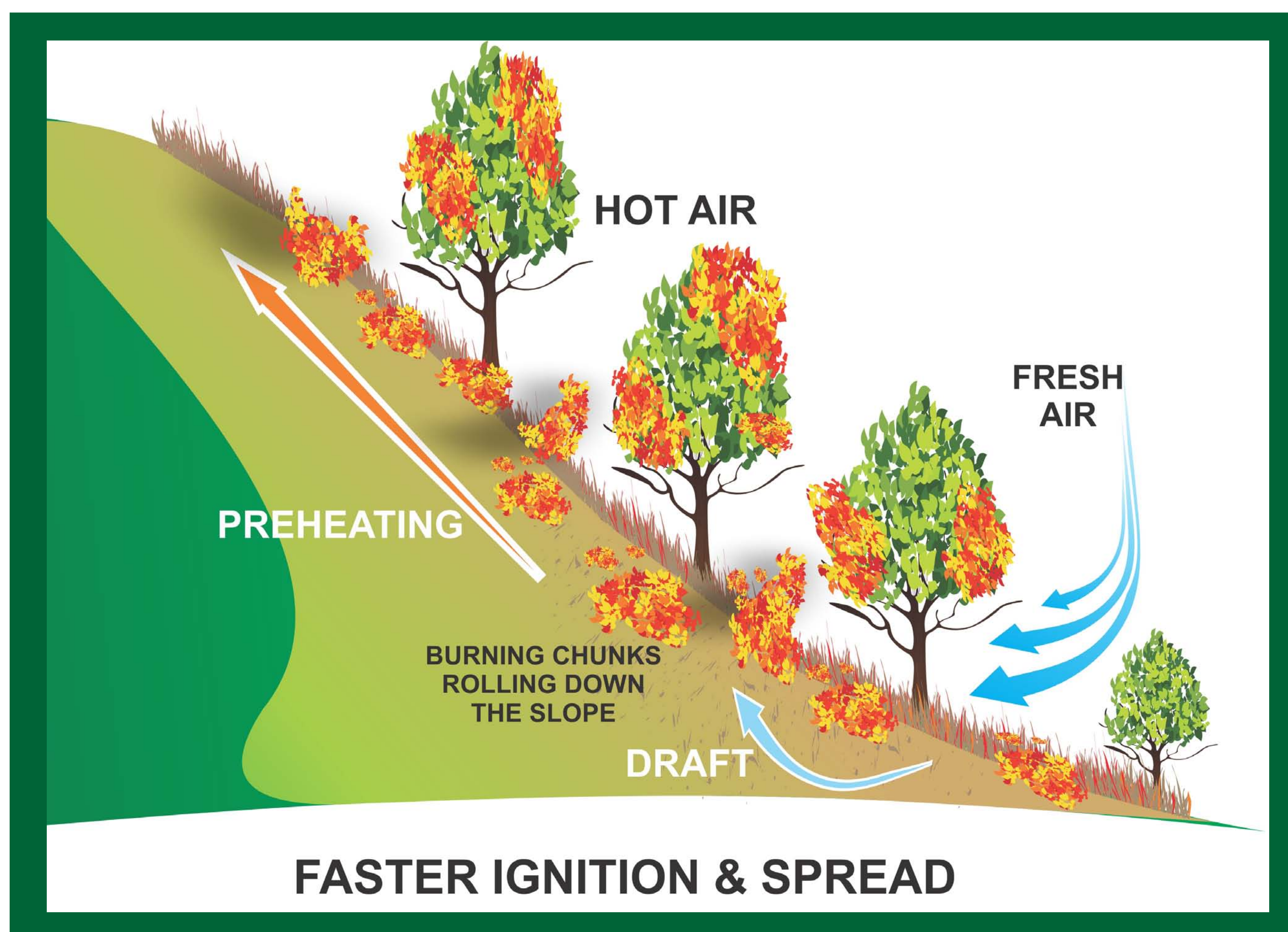
North facing slope

The North facing slope will be dry easily and it can make fire runs very fast with influence of the strong wind blowing



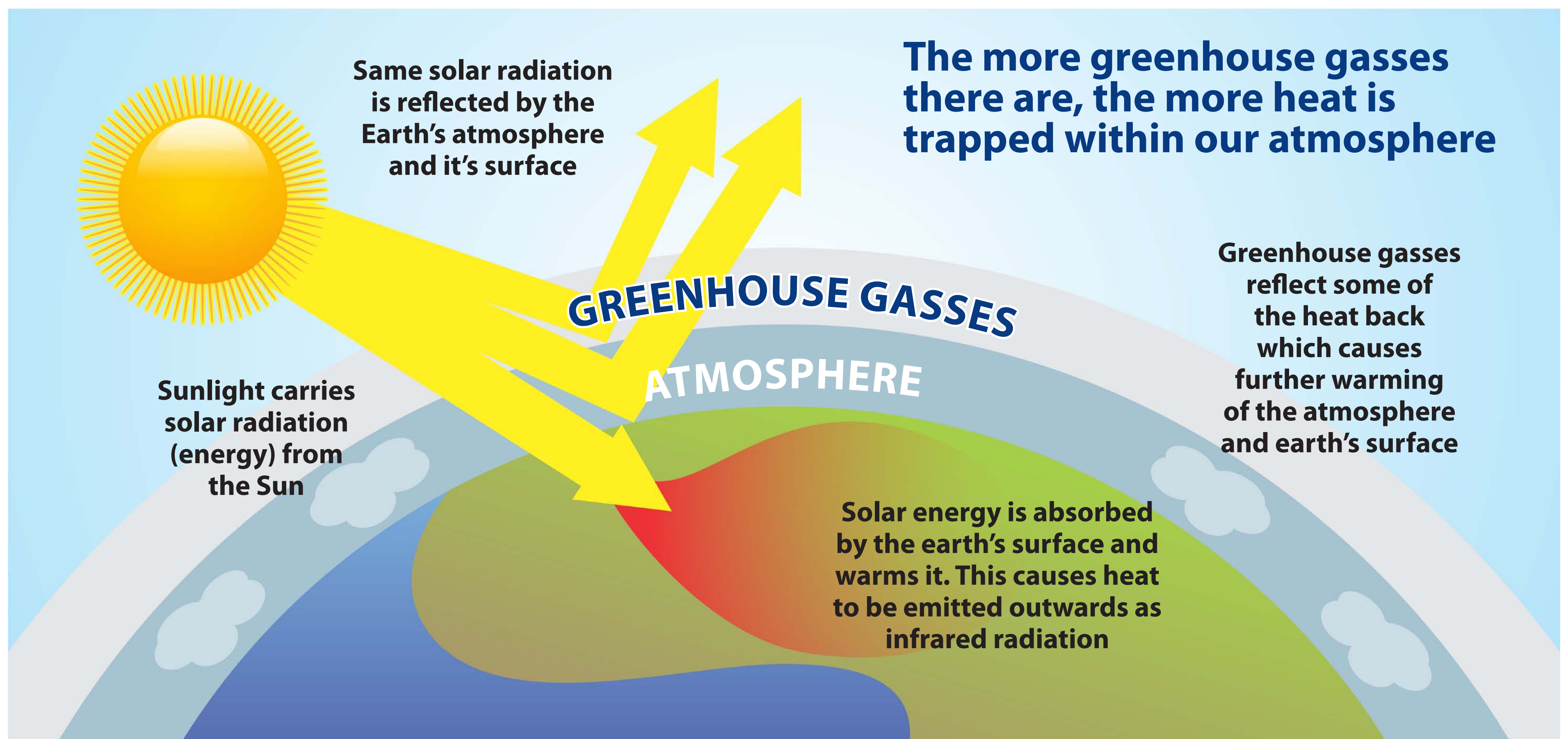
The effect of aspect on soil temperature

The shape of the land affects the start and spread of fires. Fire moves faster uphill rather than downhill. This is because the flames can easily reach more unburnt fuel in front of the fire. Radiant heat pre-heats the fuel in front of the fire, making the fuel even more flammable.





Climate Change & Fire



Climate change refers to the long term changes of weather patterns over a long period of time. This can vary from 10-30 years. These changes are caused by release of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere over a long period of time. Greenhouse gasses like Methane, carbon dioxide are responsible for climate change.



Fire & Soil Erosion



Erosion is the destruction of the top layer of soil by wind, water and rain.



Veld fires remove land cover ie the top soil, causing it to be loose, so when it rains or it is windy the top layers of soil is washed away resulting in erosion.



Invasive Alien Plants & Fire



Invasive Alien plants are spread as people move from one place to another. These plants are highly Inflammable because of their nature. While some Invasive Alien plants depend on fire to regenerate, intense fires can however lead to destruction of Indigenous trees and erosion. Invasive Alien plants consumes a lot of water and they make it difficult to control fire. Typical examples in South Africa are Acacia, Wattle, Pine and Gum trees.



Intense wildfires



Spread of invasive alien plants



Invasives in aquatic



Invasive Gum trees



Wildfires & Carbon Dioxide



Wildfires can lead to excess of carbon Dioxide and Air pollution. Fires can be used as a management tool but in the right conditions. Prolonged wildfires release a lot of carbon dioxide which has a negative effect on the environment. Avoid burning unnecessarily.

