

CAMP LOTS-O-FUN

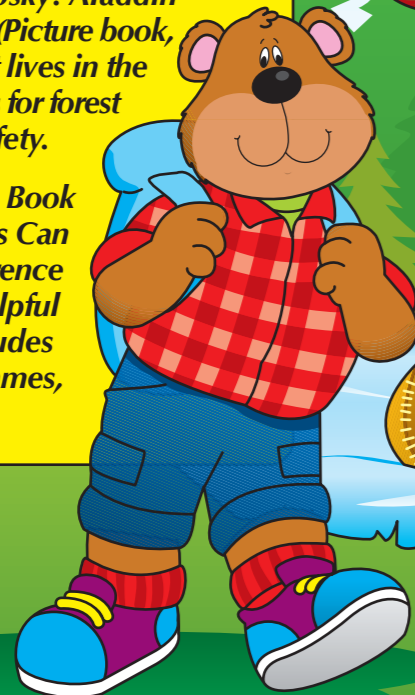
Pack your backpacks, fill your canteens, and get ready to go on a camping adventure! Filling your classroom with the inviting atmosphere of the great outdoors is sure to have your students hitting the trail and clamoring with "in-tents" excitement!

Literature Selections

Arthur Goes to Camp by Marc Brown: Little Brown and Co., 1984. (Picture book, 32 pg.) Arthur decides he wants to run away from summer camp.

Crinkleroot's Guide to Walking in Wild Places by Jim Arnosky: Aladdin Paperbacks, 1993. (Picture book, 32 pg.) Crinkleroot lives in the forest and gives tips for forest and wilderness safety.

The Kids Campfire Book by Jane Drake: Kids Can Press, 1998. (Reference book, 128 pg.) Helpful resource that includes campfire songs, games, and recipes.



Did You Know?

🔥 Campsites were commonly used by cowboys and explorers as a place to bed down while traveling.

🔥 Native Americans were the first true campers in North America. They learned to hunt, fish, and live comfortably in the wilderness.



Campsite Snapshots

Students can design picture perfect campsites with this art project. Provide catalogs that offer camping and other outdoor supplies and equipment. Pass out pieces of 8" x 8" oaktag or poster board, and let students glue cut-out pictures of camping equipment to the paper to create a campsite scene. Add details with markers or crayons. To make the pictures resemble snapshots, leave a plain border around the pictures and color the corners brown or black to look as if they have been placed in a photo album. Display the snapshots on a bulletin board. If desired, write camping captions beneath them.



Guess What We Saw When We Went Hiking?

To find out, play a guessing game using handmade binoculars. Have each child attach two short cardboard tubes together with masking tape to resemble binoculars. Sponge-paint the binoculars in camouflage greens and browns. To create a neck strap, punch a hole on the outside of each tube and thread one end of a long string into each hole. Tie a knot to secure the string. To use the binoculars, pretend to "hike" through the classroom and play a game of I Spy. The catch is, players must always "spy" through their binoculars!



Happy Trails Mix

This tasty treat is sure to bring lots of smiles as your campers hike those miles. Use a clean, plastic container with a handle to hold your mix (quart-sized milk jugs and small syrup bottles work well). Use a measuring cup to measure 1/4 cup raisins, 1/4 cup peanuts, and 1/2 cup granola. Pour each ingredient through a funnel into the bottle. Shake the bottle to mix the ingredients, replace the lid, then loop a string through the handle to create a waist belt.



Letters From Camp

Give book reports a new twist—have children write them as letters from camp. Begin by setting up a small tent in your classroom (a makeshift tent can be made by folding a sheet over a table). Place camping items such as a flashlight, a canteen, and a couple of sleeping bags in the tent, along with assorted books about camping. Let children take turns reading the books in the tent, then writing short book reports as letters, describing the characters, setting, and plot to someone. Students can share their letters from camp with other classroom campers.



What Are You Reading in Your Tent?

Expand on the sure-to-be-popular idea of reading tents as you create ideal, quiet, reading spaces for a whole week! Ask parents to donate a few tents to the classroom, or use the sheet-and-table suggestion from Letters from Camp, above. Assign one genre, such as mystery, adventure, biography, etc., to each tent. Hang a corresponding sign for each genre on a different tent. Stock the tents with appropriate books, and have children visit them during free time. Groups can visit if there is enough room. Make sure to provide flashlights to light up those cozy spaces!



Careful Campers

A prepared and cautious camper is a happy camper. Brainstorm a list of possible camping problems, such as mosquitoes, sunburn, etc. Copy the Campers' First Aid Guide (page 59) for each student. Let each child cut out the sections and staple them together in order. Assign groups and give each group a first aid topic to research. Provide reference on poisonous or troublesome plants, sunburns, bites and stings, cuts and scrapes, minor sprains, etc. As each group finishes its research, have students add information to the blank backs of the pages in their books, creating a first aid and prevention guide for each topic. When all of the guides are complete, read them as a class, then finish the activity by brainstorming another list—this time, of what should be in every camper's first aid kit!



Tall Campfire Tales

One of the best parts of camping is...scary campfire stories! On the classroom floor, arrange rocks, small logs, and twigs to resemble a campfire. Cut orange and yellow flames from tissue paper. Gather around the fire and turn off the lights. Place marshmallows on craft sticks and "roast" them over the campfire. Start a story by saying, "It was a dark and stormy night. We had just gotten into our tent when...." Then, choose a child to add a sentence or two to the story. Continue around the circle adding sentences to the story. For added fun, tape the story and replay it to remind children of their camping adventures.

Scrumptious S'mores

Your students will be asking for more—just like the name implies! Spread marshmallow cream on a graham cracker, add a section of chocolate bar or chocolate chips, then top with another cracker. Gather around the classroom campfire and sing camp songs as you enjoy these treats!

All Signs Point to...Safety!

Your class will "sign up" for safety with these reminders. Copy the Camping Safety Rules (page 58). Cut them apart, and assign them to small groups. Let groups write slogans for their rules on large pieces of oaktag, then use art supplies, twigs, leaves, and other outdoor objects to illustrate the posters. Display the posters around your campfire from Tall Campfire Tales (page 56).



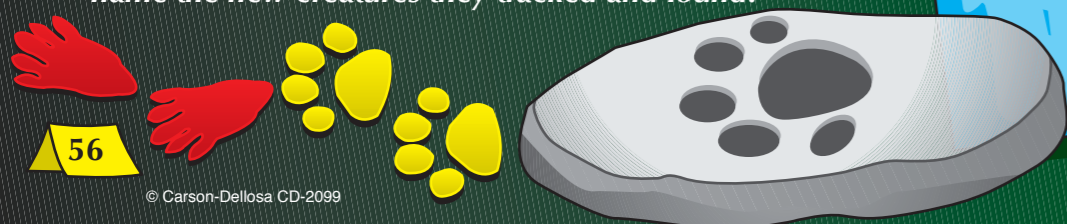
Traveling Tents

As classroom camp draws to a close, pass the fun along to other potential campers by creating travel brochures designed to sing the praises of camping. Fold a sheet of construction paper in half to resemble a tent, then have children write and illustrate all the great things they experienced in their classroom camp! Post the tents on a bulletin board and lift the tent flaps to read about great camping experiences.



Make Tracks on the Wild Side

This activity will leave a lasting impression on your class! By identifying animal tracks, campers can find out what kinds of animals are in the area. Provide a reference book which shows different tracks. Give each child some modeling clay and have her make up a new animal, then design its track in the clay. Have the children write sentences describing the animals, draw illustrations of them, and name the new creatures they tracked and found!



Do not eat plants or berries you find while camping or hiking.

Watch where you step and climb.

Never leave a campfire unattended.

Use water and dirt to completely extinguish a campfire.

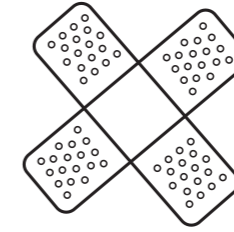
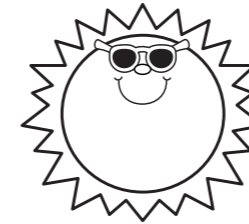
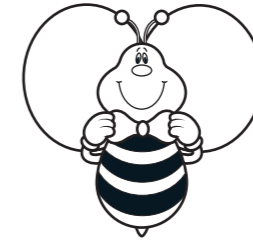
Do not drink water from lakes, rivers, or streams.

Never hike alone.

Always carry a first aid kit on camping trips.

Pack weather-appropriate clothing for your trip.

Campers' First Aid Guide



How to prevent getting a rash from poisonous plants:

Wear long-sleeved clothing and long pants when hiking. Wash hands often. Learn how to recognize poisonous plants and avoid them.

What to do if you get a rash:

Wash the affected area and put anti-itch lotion on it. DO NOT SCRATCH!

1

How to prevent sunburn:

Avoid the sun between 10:00 and 2:00. Wear sunscreen and a hat during outdoor activities.

What to do if you get a sunburn:

Drink plenty of water. Put lotion with aloe on your skin. If blisters develop, see a doctor.

2

How to prevent insect bites:

Wear long-sleeved clothing and long pants when hiking. Do not wear scented deodorant or perfume. Use insect repellent. Avoid swampy or damp areas.

What to do if you get insect bites:

DO NOT SCRATCH! Apply an anti-itch lotion.

3

How to prevent bee stings:

Do not swat at bees. Avoid colorful clothing.

What to do if you get a bee sting:

If mild swelling occurs, take an over-the-counter antihistamine pill. Avoid scratching the sting.

4

How to prevent scrapes and cuts:

Wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants when hiking. Make sure you have the right footwear for the kind of trail you are hiking on.

What to do if you get a cut:

Wash the area well. Put antibacterial cream on the cut and cover with a bandage.

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