

Let's Go Camping



photo courtesy Tim Donovan/FWC

Mini Fact:

Fires must be cold to the touch before you leave your campsite. Ask for an adult's help!

Does your family ever go camping? Come along with us and find out more about this great way to have fun and enjoy America's natural beauty.

First campers

One of the first people to encourage camping for fun was Thomas Hiram Holding. In 1853, when he was just 9 years old, he and his parents crossed the prairies of America as part of a wagon train. He wrote a book, "The Camper's Handbook," in 1908 and started camping clubs.

Why camping?

People like to camp for many reasons:

- It's not expensive.
- Campers enjoy being close to nature.
- Campgrounds can be found in all parts of the country and near many different attractions: lakes, oceans, mountains, deserts and forests. You can even camp in your own backyard!



photo courtesy Joe Stump

A recreational vehicle.

Different ways to camp

Most campers sleep in tents. But there are other forms of camping:

- Some people own or rent recreational

vehicles, or RVs. These "homes on wheels" have many conveniences, such as stoves, TVs and bathrooms. They can be parked at campgrounds, where campers can plug into electricity.

- Others like cabin camping. Some campgrounds have cabins for rent.

What will you need?

Getting ready for a camping trip is almost as much fun as the trip itself. You can help your family prepare by organizing the things you'll need.

Some people camp with very little gear. Others take along lots of things to make camping almost as comfortable as home. You might start with:

- a tent, with stakes and a tarp to put under the tent (to keep you dry).
- a sleeping bag (and a pad to make you more comfortable) and a pillow.
- clothes. Even in the summer, it can be cool in the morning. Bring a jacket or sweatshirt.
- a lantern or large flashlight. Once the sun goes down, a light will make it easier to play games or find your way to the restroom.
- cookware, plates, utensils and cups.
- a camp stove to heat water and cook on.

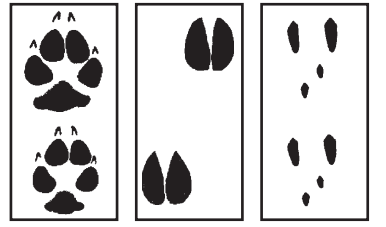
Clean up

When it's time to go home, be careful to leave your campsite as you found it. Remove all your trash. Make sure your fire is cold. Campers call this "leaving no trace."

Stuff to do

- Identify animal tracks

Footprints can be seen easily in mud or in sandy areas. You can also tell that small animals have been around by finding pine cones or acorns that have been chewed on.



Coyote Deer Rabbit



Raccoon Skunk Squirrel

If you see trees that have the leaves stripped off the lower branches, there may be deer around your campsite. And look for feathers from birds that live in the area.

- Play games

It's fun to invent games in your campsite. Try these:

- Blindfold one person. Give him or her objects from the campsite to identify by touch. When the blindfolded person guesses wrong, you switch places.
- Make a list of 10 items found in or around the campsite. Divide into teams. Whichever team brings back the most items from the list in 15 minutes wins.

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPleavenotrace
- blm.gov/learn/outdoor-ethics

At the library:

- "Camping" by Adeline Snyder

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of camping are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ANIMAL, BACKYARD, BEAUTY, CABIN, CAMPING, COLD, COOKWARE, FIRE, FLASHLIGHT, FUN, GAMES, GEAR, LANTERN, NATURAL, RECREATIONAL, SLEEPING BAG, STOVE, TENT, TRACE, TRACKS, VEHICLE.	Q N R E T N A L L A M I N A I Y S J L A N O I T A E R C E R T H G I L H S A L F N I B A C U T E T D R A Y K C A B O T H A N C E E R A W K O O C R R Y E E S L E E P I N G B A G A H B T K D L O C C E L C I H E V N A T U R A L G S E M A G G G R T R A C K S J E R I F N U F E V O T S G N I P M A C H H O
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Cook's Corner

Peanut Butter Snack Cake

You'll need:

- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 ripe banana, mashed
- 1/2 cup peanut butter

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

What to do:

1. Combine egg, honey, brown sugar, banana and peanut butter in a large bowl. Mix well.
2. In another bowl, combine flour, baking powder and baking soda. Mix well.
3. Pour flour mixture into peanut butter mixture. Mix well.
4. Pour into a greased 8-by-8-inch baking dish.
5. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 35 minutes. Serves 9.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. make cloth from thread (5) _____
2. take for a little while (6) _____
3. try to win (7) _____
4. small house (7) _____
5. warning (5) _____
6. ability (5) _____
7. below this floor (10) _____

ALE	PE	SK	BOR
AVE	TAGE	ILL	DOW
NSTA	WE	COM	COT
IRS	RT	ROW	TE

Answers: weave, borrow, cottage, alert, skill, downstairs.

Mini Jokes



Cal: What happens if you eat crackers in your sleeping bag?

Carrie: You get a crumby night's sleep!

Eco Note



Global warming is wiping out twice as many marine species as land dwellers because they are more sensitive to temperature changes and less able to escape the heat, new research finds. The Rutgers University-led study says this could have a major impact on humans who rely on fish and shellfish for food and jobs. Many land animals can hide from the heat in forests, shaded areas or underground. But this luxury is not available to many sea animals.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

For later:

Look in your newspaper for information or ads about local campgrounds.

Teachers: For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bit.ly/MPstandards. And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!



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