



Minimum Impact Camping Pre-visit

Classroom Activities

Brief Synopsis

Leave only footprints and take only photographs. Camping is one of America's most popular past times allowing one to experience nature in a unique and personal way. But if done improperly, it can affect the serenity and beauty of the site. These activities will help students discover what camping is and how to prepare for their introduction to camping at Eagle Bluff.

Ages: Designed for 6th grade or older

Time Considerations: Two to three fifty minute class periods, not including extensions.

Materials:

- Copies of "Let's Go Camping," article or access to computers with internet.

Outcomes:

- Students will become familiar with basic camping terms and camping ethics.

Minnesota Academic Standards:

Language Arts: I.A-C, II.A-E, III.A-B

Social Studies: K-3 V.A-C, 4-8 V.B-D

Arts: Artistic Expression: Visual Arts

Additional Resources:

Online version of "Let's Go Camping!" from the Minnesota Conservation Volunteer Magazine Article.

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/young_naturalists/camping/index.html

Online Teachers Guide to the "Let's Go Camping!" Article. Contains extension activities, vocabulary, study questions, and online resources.

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/education_safety/education/teachers/activities/volunteer_studyguides/lets gocamping_studyguide.pdf

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Set-up

Camping means different things to different people. The "Let's Go Camping" article will provide a common vocabulary and background information for students. Students will then share what camping means to them in an essay.

Activity 1: "Let's Go Camping," Minnesota Conservation Volunteer Article

Background: The Minnesota Conservation Volunteer is a publication produced by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Several of the articles are available on line. The article "Let's Go Camping" is an excellent introduction to the basics of camping suitable for third through middle school students. A teachers' guide is also available online that provides study questions, extension activities, and web resources.

Procedures:

1. Print out or make available the online article for each student.
2. Allow class time for reading the article and answering study questions from the teacher's guide (available online).
3. Additional activities and resources are available in the teacher's guide.

Activity 2: Camping Essay, "What Camping Means to Me"

Background: After reading the preceding article students will come up with their own definition of what camping means to them. The length of the essay is up to the teacher based upon the ability of the students. If the student participates in an annual or regular camping trip perhaps they could write about that experience. If the student rarely or never camps they might write about an imaginary camping trip or view camping objectively based on the previous reading.

Procedures:

1. Make time available to research camping online or at the library.
2. Allow class or homework time for the writing of the essay.
3. If time allows have students share their essay with the rest of the class.