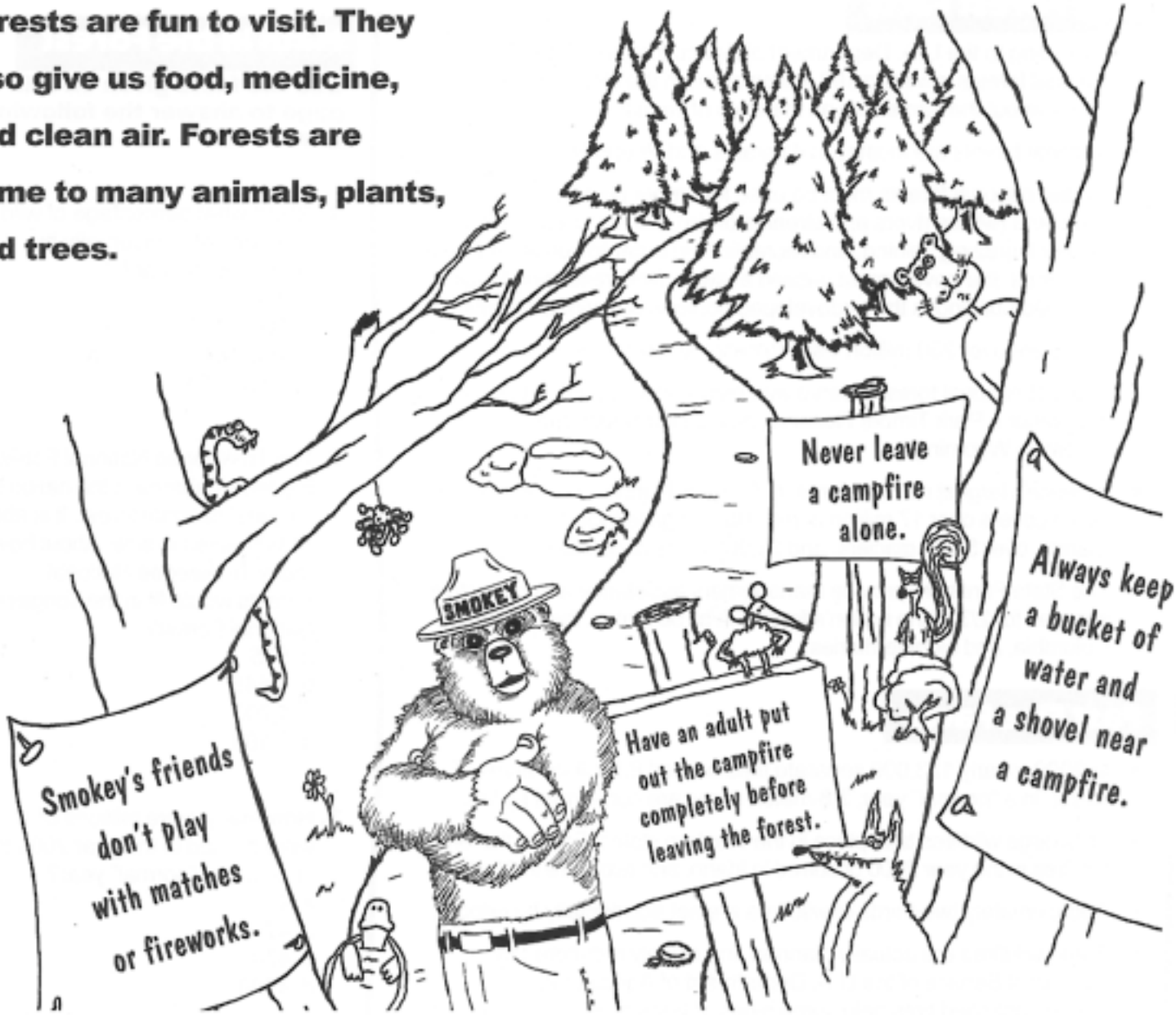
Smokey and Friends
What You Can Do To Prevent Wildfires

Grades K–2
Activity 1

What is a Forest?

Forests are fun to visit. They also give us food, medicine, and clean air. Forests are home to many animals, plants, and trees.



What do you like best about forests?

_____

_____

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Grades K–2
Activity 2

The Story of Smokey

This is the story of Smokey Bear

who wants you to treat our forests with _____.

A forest is full of animals and trees.

It's also home to birds, fish, and _____.

Smokey Bear spends every day and night

making sure the forest is just _____!

He works very hard and he does not tire

to make sure he prevents a forest wild_____.

He tells his friends not to handle matches

because in a forest, fire quickly _____.

Keep forests safe, so animals can roam.

After all, the forest is their _____.

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Grades K–2
Activity 3

Smokey Says...

Smokey's Five Rules of Fire Prevention

1. Smokey's friends don't play with matches.

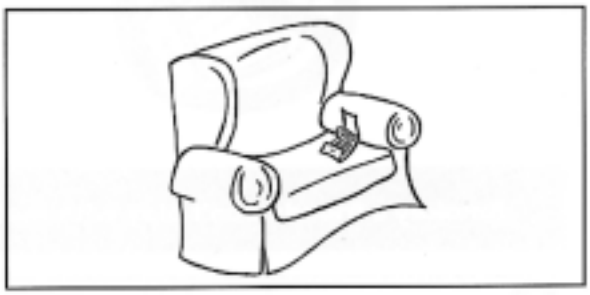
WHY? _____

_____

2. If you find matches at home, give them to your parents.

WHY? _____

_____



3. If you find matches on the way to school, give them to your teacher.

WHY? _____

_____

4. If you see younger children playing with matches, tell an adult.

WHY? _____

_____

5. If you see a fire burning out of control, tell an adult.

WHY? _____

_____

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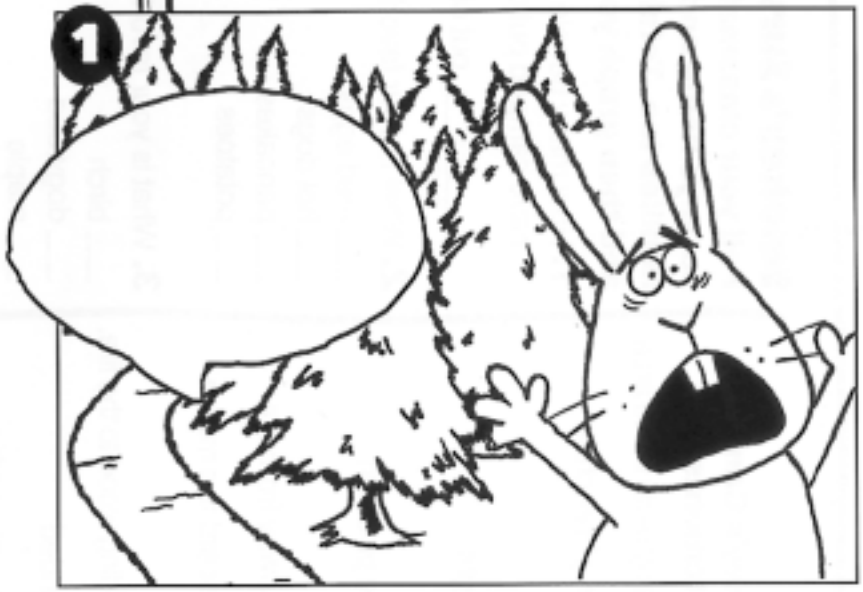
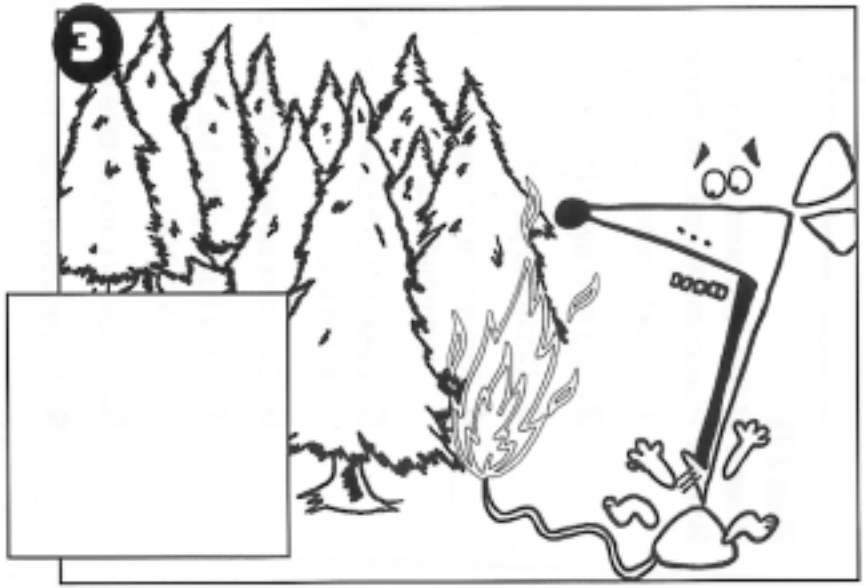
Grades K–2
Take-Home Activity

What's the Story?





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Grades 3–5
Activity 1

Our Nation's Forests

Fast Forest Facts

- According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, there are 155 national forests covering 192 million acres in the United States. That's about the same size as the state of Texas!
- National forests are located in 41 states and Puerto Rico.
- By law, national forests must be used for timber production, watershed land (where rivers and streams drain), wildlife preservation, livestock grazing, mining, and recreation. In order to conserve forest resources, the government passed a law in 1999 restricting logging and road building in the undeveloped portions of national forests.
- There are over 250 million visits to national forests every year.
- The first national forest reserve was established in 1891. It was the Yellowstone Park Timber Reserve, now called Shoshone National Forest, in Wyoming.
- America's largest national forest is Tongass National Forest in Alaska, which covers over 17 million acres. The Tongass includes about 2,000 islands, over 5,000 glaciers, and 33,000 miles of coastline.
- The State Foresters provide management assistance and protective services for 2/3 of the nation's forests in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and eight territories.

Fast Fire Facts

- In 2000, nearly 123,000 separate fires burned 8.5 million acres of forest. In a "normal" year, 3.8 million acres are consumed by fire.
- Most large wildfires take place in the Western states. Four of the largest ten fires in the year 2000 occurred in Idaho, and two were in Alaska.
- Approximately two-thirds of wildfires are set accidentally by people.
- Some wildfires are actually planned and closely monitored by the Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These controlled fires help some types of trees grow.
- The worst wildfire in United States history was on October 8, 1871 (coincidentally, the same day as the Great Chicago Fire) in the logging community of Peshtigo, Wisconsin. Over 1,200 human lives were lost and 2 billion trees burned in the fire. New policies on firefighting and fire prevention developed as a result of the Peshtigo blaze.
- **You** can help prevent accidental wildfires!

Math in the Forest

Use the facts given on this page to answer the following questions.

1. About what percentage of wildfires are set accidentally by people each year?
a. About 33%
b. About 50%
c. About 66%
d. About 88%

2. The Tuskeegee National Forest in Eastern Alabama is the nation's smallest national forest. It is about 11,000 acres in size. About how many Tuskeegee National Forests would fit in the Tongass National Forest?
a. 575
b. 1,545
c. 1,700
d. 2,100

3. How many more millions of acres were burned in the year 2000 than in an entire "normal" year?
a. 4.7
b. 47
c. 470
d. 4700

4. What is the approximate average number of visits to national forests per month? Round up or down to the nearest hundred.

_____

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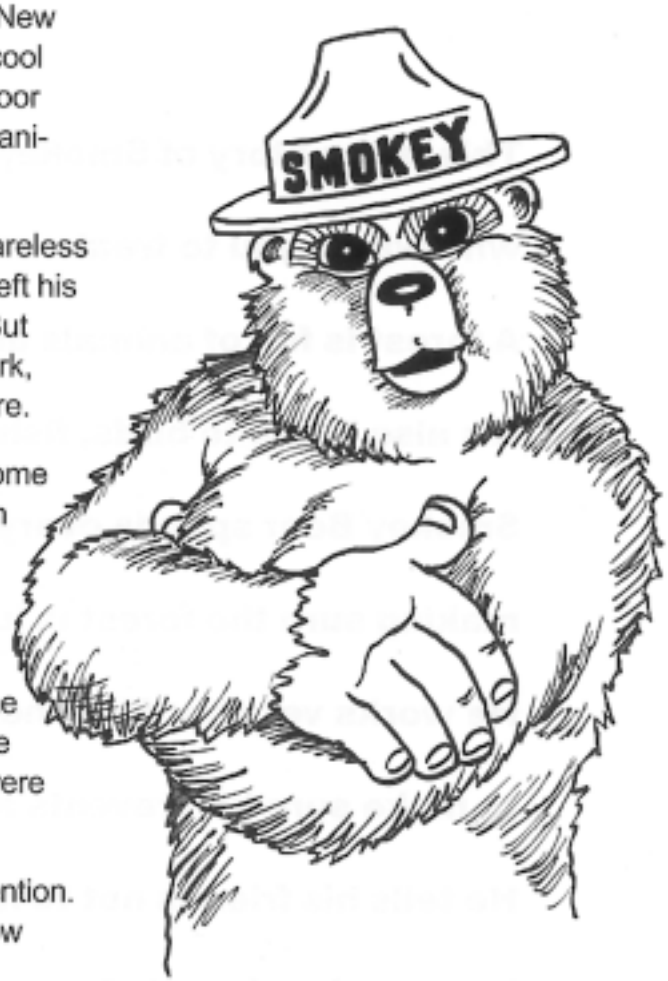
Grades 3–5
Activity 2

The Story of Smokey

It was a hot, dry May in the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico. Deer rested under cool trees. Fish hid along cool stream banks. Sticks and pine needles on the forest floor were so dry that they would crackle and crunch when animals or people walked on them.



One day, a person who was visiting the forest was careless with fire. No one knows if he dropped a lit match, or left his campfire burning, or forgot to crush out a cigarette. But everyone knows what did happen next. The little spark, caused by one person, quickly became a huge wildfire.

The animals, birds, and fish tried to escape the fire. Some could not escape. Even in streams, fish choked on ash from the fire. Many firefighters worked for five days to put the wildfire out.

When the fire was finally out, the firefighters found a frightened bear cub clinging to a burned tree. Bits of the cub's fur and his paws had been burned in the fire. The firefighters took care of the bear cub until his injuries were all healed. They named the little bear "Smokey."

Smokey Bear became a living symbol of wildfire prevention. He travels around the country, telling boys and girls how they can help prevent wildfires.

Think and Write

You may need to do some additional research to support your answers to the following questions.

1. How might the fire have started? _____

_____

2. How might the fire have been prevented? _____

_____

3. What dangers are presented by a wildfire in a forest? Who or what is affected by a wildfire?

_____

_____

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Smokey and Friends
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Grades 3–5
Activity 3

Smokey Says...

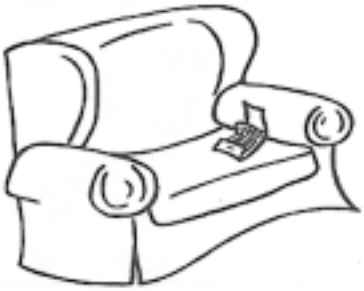
Read the following rules. Select one rule and create a poster that will teach classmates and your school community about wildfire prevention.

Smokey's Five Rules of Fire Prevention

1

Smokey's friends don't play with matches.

2



If you find matches at home, give them to your parents.

3

If you find matches on the way to school, give them to your teacher.

4

If you see younger children playing with matches, tell an adult.

5

If you see a fire burning out of control, tell an adult.

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Grades 3–5
Take-Home Activity

Search For Facts

Use the Internet to research the following questions. Hint: Visit www.smokeybear.com.

Part I

Question	My Answer	My Source
How many acres of forest are there in the United States?		
What kind of bear is Smokey Bear?		
Which came first, the Smokey Bear ad campaign – or the discovery of a frightened bear cub, dubbed Smokey, at the site of a forest fire in New Mexico?		
What are Smokey's Match Rules?		
Name three products made from trees.		

Part II

Which of the following are not Smokey's Campfire Rules? Place an X next to those statements.

_____ **1.** Look to make sure there aren't any birds in the area.

_____ **2.** Dig a pit away from overhanging branches.

_____ **3.** Circle the pit with rocks.

_____ **4.** Make sure someone has brought marshmallows.

_____ **5.** Clear a five-foot area around the pit down to the soil.

_____ **6.** Stack extra wood upwind and away from fire.

_____ **7.** After lighting the fire, do not discard the match until it is cold.

_____ **8.** Let every camper take a turn adding wood to the fire.

_____ **9.** Never leave a campfire unattended.

_____ **10.** Keep a bucket of water and shovel nearby.

Smokey's Surveys

Poll your classmates. Take the surveys home and poll your families too. Total your answers and then graph your results.

1. How many people in your class have camped out overnight?

_____ (number) out of _____ (total class number)

2. What is your favorite campfire treat?

___ fried eggs
___ hot dogs
___ pancakes
___ potatoes
___ roasted corn
___ s'mores
___ toasted marshmallows

3. What is your favorite tree?

___ birch
___ dogwood
___ maple
___ oak
___ palm
___ pine
___ redwood

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