

S is for S'mores

by Helen Foster James

A camping alphabet takes readers on an A - Z trail exploring this outdoor pastime.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *How many of you have eaten s'mores?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if the children are roasting marshmallows to make s'mores?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *S is for S'mores*

- adventure: an exciting event
- desert: an area of land, usually in very hot climates that consist only of sand
- paddle: a short oar with a flat blade at one or both ends used for small boats or canoes
- canyon: a deep narrow valley with steep sides
- foliage: the leaves of a plant or tree
- gear: the equipment that is needed for a particular activity
- hikers: people who take a long walk in the countryside, usually for pleasure
- dehydrated: loss of water in the body
- dragonflies: an insect with a large head and eyes, a long thin body, and two pairs of blue wings
- soar: to fly or rise high in the air
- destination: the place somebody or something is going
- explore: to search an area to discover what it is like or what is there
- chirp: a short high-pitched sound made by a bird
- rangers: somebody who oversees, protects, and patrols a forest or national park
- wildlife: wild animals, birds, and other living things
- tracks: a mark left by a moving person, animal, or thing
- underground: located or operating beneath the surface of the Earth
- burrows: a hole or tunnel dug as a living space by a small animal such as a rabbit
- vistas: a scenic or panoramic view
- awe: a feeling of amazement
- bison: a large hairy animal resembling an ox but with a massive head, shoulders and a humped back
- moose: a large animal of the deer family, with long legs and antlers
- cozy: warm, comfortable, and snug

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Can you name different places to camp? Mountains? Desert? Beaches?
- What activities can you do at the beach? Swim? Fish? Canoe?
- Can you name the world's most amazing canyon? Grand Canyon?
- What is an important piece of gear needed for hiking? Boots? Do you have these?
- Are there flowers and animals in the desert? Name some?
- How much water do you need each day when camping in the desert? Why?
- What type of clothing should desert campers wear?
- Where is the driest and hottest park?
- Foliage changes color with the seasons. Why?
- Can you name different types of camping gear? Cell phones? Do they work when camping?
- How many legs do insects have?
- How many times per minute does a mosquito beat its wings when humming?
- What keeps mosquitoes from biting you?
- Should you drink water from rivers or springs when camping? Why not?
- Have you ever star gazed when camping? Name some?
- What are some of the organizations that teach you about camping? Are you a Boy Scout? Girl Scout?
- Have you ever been to a national, state, regional, or private park? Where? When?
- What are the men and women called that work at national parks, etc? Do you know a Ranger?
- What is a favorite food made over a campfire? Have you ever made or eaten S'mores? Why are they called S'mores?
- Can you camp in the Winter? Have you? Where? When?



Do

S'mores Galore!

August 10 is National S'mores Day, but every camping trip is a fun time to enjoy this tasty treat. S'mores are easy to make. Prepare S'mores by using the recipe under the "S" section of this book.