

WILDFIRE PREVENTION SCHOOL PROGRAM

Grade 4

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

Basic Fire Prevention Concepts

Presentation Introduction

Grade 4 Lessons

Lesson I - Smokey's Bear Story

Lesson II - Forest Finds

Presentation Conclusion

Handouts

Forest Finds Worksheet

The Story of Smokey Bear

Credits

Ministry of Natural Resources
Fire Prevention School Program, Ontario, Canada

National Wildlife Federation
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Western Regional Environmental Education Council

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Video List

Your school may order videos by contacting: DNR Information Center, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4040, number 651-297-6157. Please order by catalog number.

Introduction To Fire

11 min. VHS Cat. No. V926 Ages 4-6

Provided by DNR, Division of Forestry, Wildfire Prevention Committee. Slide-tape on video narrated by a child who discusses how trees are important to us in our everyday lives. Explains how fire, used properly, can be used to cook our food, heat water, and can be our best friend. Fire used carelessly can damage our homes and forests. Concludes with how children can be safe and avoid dangerous situations with fire.

“Ouch” Said the Tree

6 min. VHS Cat. No. V927 Ages 5-9

Provided by DNR, Division of Forestry, Wildfire Prevention Committee. Slide-tape on video narrated by a child. Storyline is in “Ouch Said The Tree” song. Shows fires started by kids playing with matches, unattended campfire, trash burning, and cigarettes. Many slides of fires and fire suppression activities.

Please Don't Light That Fire

7 min VHS Cat. No. V928 Ages 5-7

Provided by DNR, Division of Forestry, Wildfire Prevention Committee. Grade 2 lesson plan, narrated slide show. Nicholas and Jennifer go for a picnic in the forest. They find some matches and decide to start a campfire. Oakley the oak tree stops them and tells a story of how dangerous fires are to the trees in the forest.

Smokey's Fire Safety Tips

8 min VHS Cat. No. V929 Grade 3

Provided by DNR, Division of Forestry, Wildfire Prevention Committee. Four children go for a hike in the woods; find animal sign and matches. As they try to light a campfire, Smokey comes and tells them about fire prevention and how the forest is home to animals.

Smokey Bear

18 min. VHS Cat. No. V249 Ages 8-12

Provided by DNR, Division of Forestry, Wildfire Prevention Committee. Grandpa (Denver Pyle) and children play in forest through the seasons, have a campfire and tell the story of Smokey Bear. Ends with what Smokey means today. Smokey Bear song at the end.

Forest Fire

8 min VHS Cat. No. V931 Ages 9-12

Provided by DNR, Division of Forestry, Wildfire Prevention Committee. Slide-tape on video. Minnesota oriented. Campfire, debris, and children caused fires; explanation and safety. Results of forest fires (i.e. losses).

Forests Are More Than Trees

19 min VHS Cat. No. V932 Ages 10-18

Provided by DNR, Division of Forestry, Wildfire Prevention Committee. Slide-tape on video. Video covers: wildfire sign in the forest, different parts of forest used by different animals, tree rings, life cycles, tree types, tree ranges, tree and animal adaptation to climatic zones, logging history, old growth and preservation, public and private forest lands, distribution and use, timber products, watershed management, photosynthesis, carbon cycle, multiple use management, reforestation and deforestation due to development, acid rain, fire limiting forest use and recycling.

The Oregon Fire Disaster - 1987

18 min. VHS Cat. No. V933 Ages 10 - Adult

Provided by DNR, Division of Forestry, Wildfire Prevention Committee. The 1987 Oregon fire season had some of the worst fire conditions in recent history. During the fire season two people died, many homes were lost, and many people were evacuated. Federal, state and private agencies and companies combined forces to work together to control these forest fires. Assistance came from across the nation to help out in one of the largest mobilizations of fire suppression resources in history. Good description of the job of fire fighters and the support effort necessary to bring major forest fires under control.

Basic Fire Prevention Concepts

Fire is a necessary part of our lives. We use it for cooking, heating our water and homes.

Fire can be very destructive when not used properly.

Lightning causes some forest fires.

People are the main cause of forest fires, either through carelessness or because they haven't learned how to be fire safe. People cause 9 out of 10 fires. Campers, berry pickers, hunters, homeowners, and children are some of the groups of people who commonly start forest fires through carelessness.

There are things we should know that will help us to prevent forest fires:

- Ž Children should never play with matches. Many children have been hurt playing with matches. Many forest fires have been started as the result of children playing with matches.
- Ž Adults should never discard lighted cigarettes. Cigarettes should be crushed out in ashtrays. If there is no ashtray, cigarettes should be crushed out on a rock or mineral soil. People should never crush a cigarette out on anything that can burn, such as needles or leaves.
- Ž People should compost their yard debris and leaves. If that is not possible, they should burn their yard debris using large metal barrels covered with a screen.
- Ž A campfire should be built on rock or sand – never on anything that could burn such as grass, needles, or leaves. Do not put rocks around a campfire, as they could hide burning embers. Keep the fire small. Don't build campfires under overhanging branches.
- Ž Put a campfire out when you are finished with it. Do not go away and leave it burning.
- Ž To properly extinguish a campfire, pour water on it, stir the ashes with a stick, then pour more water on it. Do these steps until everything looks wet, the ashes don't hiss anymore, no more smoke comes from the ashes, and the ashes feel cold.
- Ž Forest workers should never smoke while they are working. Their equipment should be in good working condition and fire safe.

If you find a fire burning, tell an adult right away. The fire should be reported to the nearest Department of Natural Resources office or call 9-1-1. If you have any information that might help the Department of Natural Resources determine what caused the fire, you should report it.

Many people depend on the forest for jobs. We all depend on the forest because many things we use every day are made of wood that comes from trees that grow in the forest.





Vocabulary

The following words are listed for the purpose of providing a vocabulary guide for your presentation. Children should become familiar with these words when presented to them in a fire prevention context. A few of these terms may be completely new to students (e.g., prevention), so the meaning should be made clear to them at the point in the presentation the word is used.

camper
campfire
careless
cigarette

debris
destroy
extinguish
forest fire
matches

mineral soil
prevention
protect
report

Presentation Introduction

Introduce yourself if you are not the children's regular teacher. Give a simple description of what you do.

Explain to the children that you will be talking about fire prevention and that they will be learning how to be fire safe. Ask the class if anyone knows what prevention means - if not, explain it to them.

Explain to them briefly what you have planned for the program.

Tell the children they will have a chance to ask questions at the end of the program.

Lesson I: Smokey's Fire Safety Tips

Introduction	5 min. maximum
Video: <i>Smokey Bear Story</i>	20 min. maximum
Discussion of the Video	15 min. maximum
Art Activity	20 min. maximum
Student/Teacher Handouts	5 min. maximum

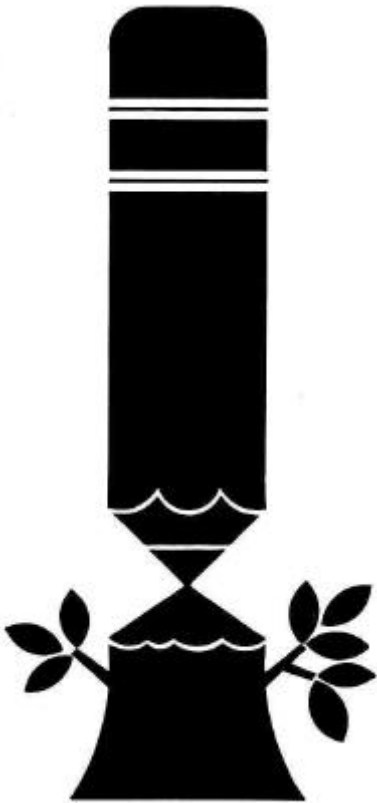
Materials

Ž Video: *Smokey Bear Story*
Ž Video Player (VCR/TV)
Ž Paper (8 ½" X11")

Ž Crayons
Ž Large Piece of Paper & Marker
or Blackboard and chalk

Objectives

- Ž Develop an awareness of forest fire prevention.
- Ž Develop a concern for the protection of our forests.
- Ž Develop responsible attitudes with regards to forest fire prevention.
- Ž Become aware of some of the groups responsible for starting forest fires.
- Ž Understand some of the ways we can become fire safe.
- Ž Develop a general understanding of the DNR's role in forest fire prevention and responsibility for putting out forest fires.



Smokey Bear Story

Before you begin, tell the students the name of the film you are going to watch is called "The Smokey Bear Story." Tell them to watch and listen very carefully, because you will be asking them questions after the program. Tell them to try to remember the things that Smokey tells us.

Questions:

1. Did the children enjoy the forest? What were some of the things they enjoyed?
2. Are all fires bad? How are some fires good?
3. How can fires be harmful?
4. The grandfather told the children about a destructive fire that burned a forest many years ago. Nobody knows for sure how it started but how might it have been started?
5. What did the fire fighters find after the fire?
6. Today we use Smokey as a fire prevention symbol. What do we mean by fire prevention? What are some of the ways people can prevent forest fires?
7. What should you do if you see someone else breaking a fire safety rule?

Smokey Bear Follow Up Art Activity

When you ask the question, "What ways can people prevent forest fires?", list the student's answers on a large sheet of paper or the blackboard.

Next, ask the students to draw a picture of one way people can prevent forest fires and to write their message on their picture.

Lesson II: Forest Finds

Introduction	5 min. maximum
Discuss the Basic Fire Prevention Concepts	15 min. maximum
Activity: Forest Finds	10 min. maximum
Student/Teacher Handouts	5 min. maximum

Objectives

- Ž Develop an awareness of forest fire prevention.
- Ž Understand some of the ways we can become fire safe.
- Ž Develop a concern for the protection of our forests.
- Ž Develop a general understanding of the DNR's role in forest fire prevention and responsibility for putting out forest fires.
- Ž Develop responsible attitudes with regards to forest fire prevention.
- Ž Identify some of the forest products we use every day.
- Ž Become aware of some of the groups responsible for starting forest fires.

Materials

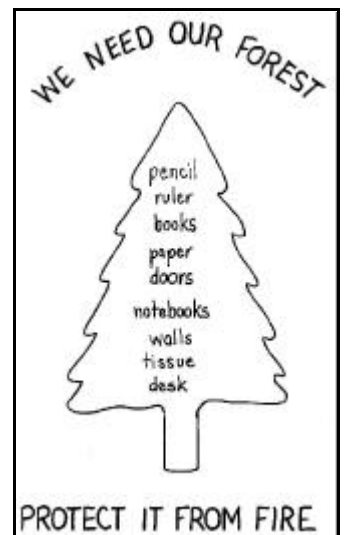
- Ž Large Sheet of Paper or Blackboard with outline of a tree.
- Ž Marker or Chalk.
- Ž Forest Finds Worksheet

Forest Finds

Begin by discussing the basic concepts of fire prevention in the beginning of this document. Include reasons why foresters protect the forest from fire.

Discuss some of the things a forest provides us (wood for shelter, jobs, forest products, food.) Encourage the students to help you develop a list of things we get from a forest (lumber, syrup, paper, pencils, etc.) List these on a large sheet of paper or blackboard with the outline of a tree on it. Include on your tree a title on the bottom and top:

Top: "We Need Our Forests"
Bottom: "Protect Them From Fire"



Forest Finds Worksheet

It's hard to imagine what life would be like without forests. We use the products we get from them to make everything from cardboard to chewing gum. In this activity, our students discover just how big a role forests play in their everyday lives.

Give each student a copy of the handout page entitled "Forest Finds", and tell them that there are more than 40 forest products in the picture. Ask them to circle as many as they can find. When they're done, discuss the answers and let them color the picture. As a follow up activity, ask the students to list all the forest finds they can think of in their own homes.

Answers:

Wood products: banister, baseball bat, blocks, bookshelf, broom handle, bulletin board frame, cabinets, chairs, clock, counter, door, fence, bowl, wall moldings, paintbrush handle, picture frames, sofa, stairs, stereo cabinet and speakers, spools for thread, stools, tables, tennis racket, umbrella handle, window frame, wood inside walls.

Bark products: baseball (has cork center), bulletin board.

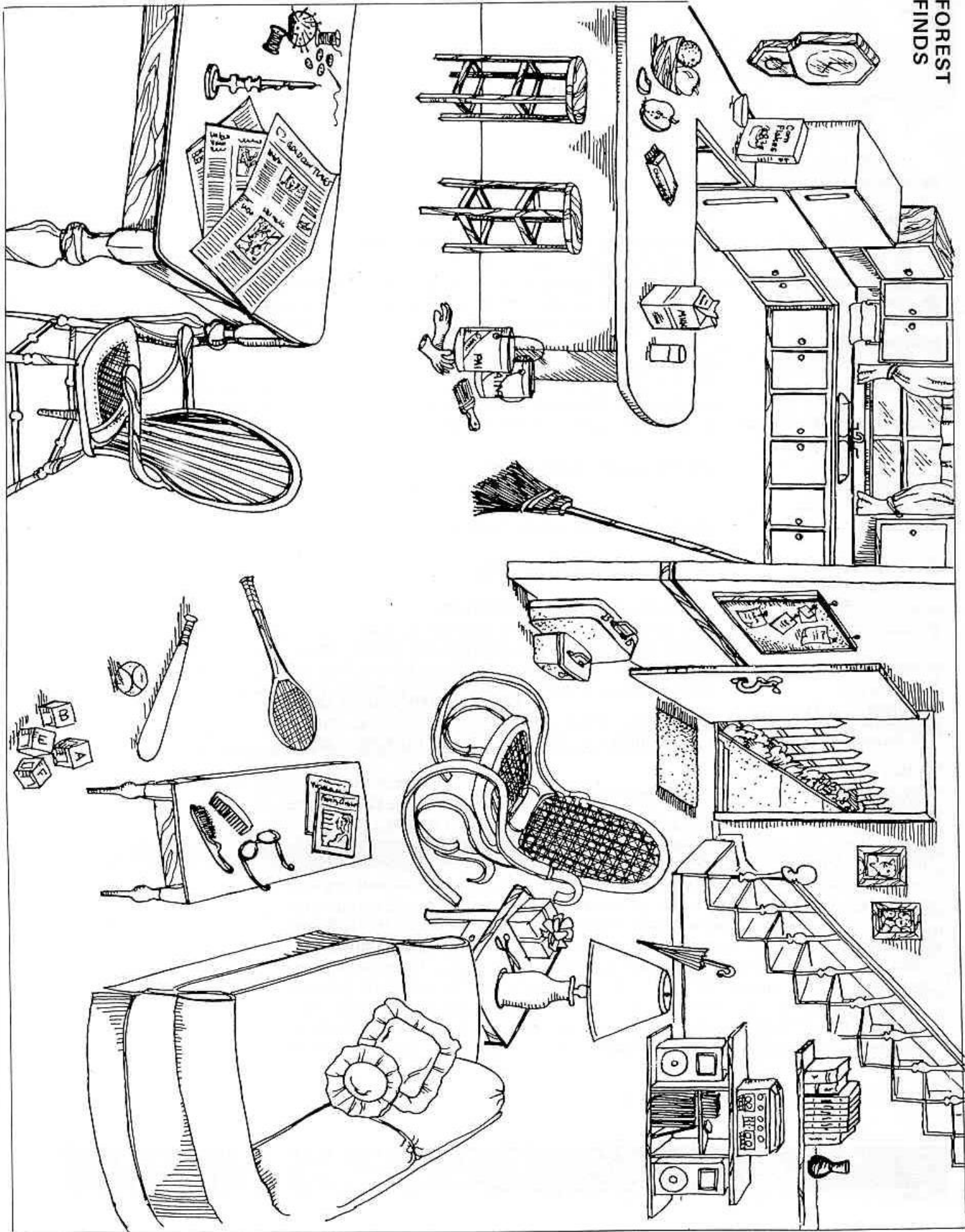
Paper products: books, candy wrapper, cereal box, gift wrapping and box, magazines, milk container, newspaper, notes on bulletin board, paper towels, record album covers.

Foods: nuts, chocolate bar (cocoa tree beans are used to make chocolate).

Other products: buttons, comb, curtains, eyeglass frame, hairbrush handle, luggage, paint, pillows, rubber gloves, rug, upholstery on sofa (Cellulose, the major component of the cell walls of trees and other plants, can be added to certain substances to make plastics. And tree saps can be turned into paint and other products)

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FOREST
FINDS





Presentation Conclusion

Smokey Visit

Introduce Smokey. Tell the students that Smokey has come to remind us to be careful with fire and to remind boys and girls never to play with matches or any fire.

Be sure that the person who wears the Smokey costume understands that Smokey is a respected symbol of fire prevention and must act with dignity and respect. Smokey also does not talk, but can communicate through gestures.

A visit from Smokey can be a lasting experience, so be sure the students are aware of what Smokey represents.

You may want to read the story of Smokey Bear or be prepared to answer questions about Smokey.

Book the Smokey costume well in advance of the presentation.

Presentation Conclusion

If there is any area you have failed to cover, you may wish to do so at this point. By the end of the presentation, the students should have an understanding of the basic fire prevention concepts. You may wish to ask a few general questions to ensure the students have understood the main concepts.

At this point, you can answer any questions the students may have.

Thank the students for being attentive listeners.

Student/Teacher Handouts

When a forester visits, they will usually bring a small token or handout for each student to remind them of the visit. Most students will show this to their parents. This encourages the students to talk to their parents about what they have learned and to bring the fire prevention message home.

The number and types of handouts given to each child should be kept to a minimum. It has been found that when too many handouts are passed out, many are discarded.

Handouts

The handout page following can be photocopied and handed out to students after any of these lessons. You may also want to read the Story of Smokey Bear to the class. Contact your DNR Forester for a classroom poster.

THE STORY OF SMOKEY BEAR

Once upon a time, many years ago there was a little bear cub that lived with his mother in the forests of New Mexico. One day a terrible forest fire started by a person who was careless. As the fire ripped through the forest animals ran for their lives. Many of them escaped the choking smoke and burning flames, but some, like this little bear cub's mother died. Foresters fought the fire for several days. When they finally had the fire out, the foresters found the little bear cub, all burned and scared and hungry. Since the cub was in so much of the smoke of the fire, they named him Smokey. They doctored

Smokey back to health, and Smokey became a pet. They put a hat on Smokey and brought him to the schools around the country to tell his story, and remind people to be careful with fire. To this day, Smokey and his helpers still visit schools to teach children about fire prevention.

