

CAT TALES™



It's time to go **CAMPING...**

Whether it's a trip to the lake, the mountains, or just a tent in your backyard, there's something very appealing about camping out.

Camping is a great way for families to spend time together without the distractions of modern conveniences we take for granted – like the internet, electricity or even running water. On a camping trip, your parents can teach you new skills, help you learn about the outdoors and just take a break from your everyday routine.

Best of all, camping gives everyone a chance to enjoy each other's company, exploring the park or forest during the day with lots of time for story-telling, sing-alongs and roasting marshmallows over the campfire in the evening.

National parks, provincial parks and conservation areas in Canada offer campsites within a safe family setting. Most parks have special features to learn about or explore, and many offer guided hikes, canoe trips or sports activities.

Many parks offer facilities for pets, so Fido or Fluffy can enjoy the vacation, too. But make sure you check ahead to see if you need to bring a pet crate or leash along.

You and your parents can check out what parks are near you and what features they offer on the internet. For national parks, visit www.pc.gc.ca and for provincial parks in Ontario, visit www.ontarioparks.com.

FAT CAT® JOKES

Q. What's the best way to catch a squirrel?

A. Go up a tree and act like a nut!

Q. What runs, day and night, sometimes fast, sometimes slow, but never stopping or standing still?

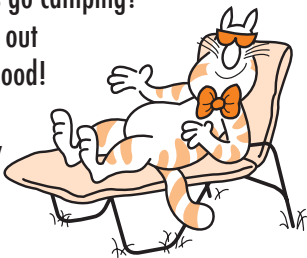
A. A river!

Q. Why did the horses go camping?

A. They wanted to get out of the NEIGH-bourhood!

Q. Where can you buy the best pencils?

A. In Pencil-vania!



Q. Why is it dangerous to do your math homework in the forest?

A. Because if you add 4 plus 4 you get ate!

Tips for safe camping

- Bring a good map and a compass.
- Wear boots, long pants and long sleeves to protect against plants like poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac.
- Wash your hands before handling food.
- Bring plenty of sun screen and a hat.
- Avoid being in the sun from 10-11 a.m. to 2-3 p.m. when the sun's ultraviolet rays are the strongest.
- Don't invite bugs to bite. Avoid perfume, hair sprays, scented soaps, lotions and shampoos that attract mosquitoes.
- Bring plenty of water. Do not drink water from streams or springs. Even crystal-clear water can be contaminated!
- Use clear plastic bags for your food. You can see what's in the bags and you'll have a ready supply of trash bags.
- Don't store your food in or near your tent. Hang food high above the ground and make sure the food is far from where you are sleeping.

FAT CAT® Fun Page



Each summer, Henry (left), Judith and Guy enjoy a camping trip to a nearby provincial park. Henry brings the basic camping gear; Judith brings equipment for fun activities and Guy provides the food and drink. Draw a line from each item they brought to the person who brought it.

Colour the three friends and the things they brought on their trip.



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