

## Exploring the Great Outdoors

**Goal:** Encourage students to learn about nature and wildlife through authentic experiences, electronic media, and books!

**BookSpring will provide:**

- Tent, chair, and sleeping bag
- Camp stove, fake food
- Camp fire
- Nature/wildlife CD
- Felt boards with animal puppets
- Wildflowers
- Armadillo
- Binoculars, compass, flashlight, and hat
- TX Parks and Wildlife materials
- Trivia cards; books



**Description of Activity:**

1. Dressed in camping gear, welcome the children to “Your School’s State Park” and announce that they arrived just in time for a story around the campfire.
2. Tell the children that today at RIF we are out in nature for a day of camping. Ask them if they have ever been camping and what kind of activities they did while they were there.
3. Explain that a national or state park is an excellent choice to go camping as well as see native plants and animals. Ask children to name some plants they may see while camping. Feel free to name some of them as well and add the plant on the felt board. (pine tree/conifers, pecan tree, ferns, and moss)
4. Ask them to name some animals they may see while camping and place the hand puppets on the felt board. (black bear, owl, rabbit, skunk, fox, eagle, moose, raccoon, buffalo, porcupine, chipmunk, beaver, squirrel.)
5. Be sure to emphasize that many of these animals are forest dwellers that can be found in other parts of the United States. Page 4 includes pictures of some of the animals the children might see if camping in Central Texas.
6. You may also want to ask older children why they think these plants and animals live in particular areas of the country. Encourage them to use the animals’ coat, etc. for clues. Answers include: climate, camouflage, food, and hibernation.
7. Discuss with the children that it is important to know what wildlife to expect when camping for your own safety. You don’t want to eat poisonous berries or rub against poison ivy. Animal tracks can help you figure out what may be lurking in the forest which allows you to take necessary precautions. Never wander alone-always have an adult with you!

**Community Connection: Texas Parks and Wildlife:** <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/kids/>  
Check out the great website for awesome information on local plants, animals,

**TEXAS**  
**PARKS &**  
**WILDLIFE**

**Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills:** K(21 A&B); 1st (27A&B); 2nd (28A&B); 3rd (110.14 29A); 4th (110.6 b1A,C &b3A); 5th (110.7 b1A &b3A &b8A,B,C)

**Common Core:** ELA-Literacy. RL.K.10, SL.K.1a-K.2, 1.1a-c, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1a-c, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1a-d, 4.3, 4.4, 4.1d, 4.6, RF 4.4a-cSI 4.2, SI 5.3, 5.6, RI5.2, 5.8, 5.10

## Suggested Read-Aloud Books

**Grade Level:**  
**Pre-Kinder through First Grade**

**Suggested Read-Aloud:**  
***Froggy Goes to Camp***  
**By: Jonathan London**

### Discussion Points:

1. In this book, *Froggy Goes to Camp*, it is not exactly the same as camping in the wilderness. As you listen to the story, see if you can notice some things that are the same as camping and some things that are different.
2. Froggy took his sleeping bag and swim trunks with him. What are some other things you might need to take if you were going camping?
3. KP means Kitchen Patrol and Froggy did his turn. How would cooking be different if you were camping in a state park? What would you cook?
4. Froggy and his friends tipped over the canoe. They're lucky they're frogs! They are good swimmers! What should people make sure to do if they go out on the water? (Wear life jackets!!)
5. What songs would you sing if you were out by the campfire? Lead the students in a chorus of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" or one of the songs listed on the camp songs page of this packet (p.5)

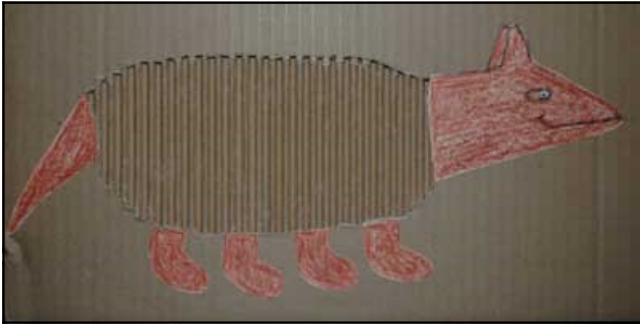
**Grade Level:**  
**Second through Fifth Grade**

**Suggested Read-Aloud:**  
***A Week in the Woods***  
**By: Andrew Clements**

### Discussion Points:

1. Before reading, explain to the students that so far in the book, Mark has been having a rough time. His parents moved him to a new town and a new school in February of his 5th grade year. Then, they went off travelling and left him to be taken care of by the housekeeper and gardener. He is just starting to get to know people. One of the things he likes is his science class. He is excited about the big 5th grade trip to the woods. \*Start reading at p.88 bottom (Near the end of March.)
2. Mark and Leon are camping in New Hampshire (Northeast U.S.). How might that be different from camping in Texas?
3. As the school camping trip gets nearer, Mark does some research on the internet about survival camping. It's a good thing too. On the trip, he gets into trouble and decides to walk off by himself. See how he copes with the darkness and weather in this next selection: \* Start reading on p.166. If you have time, finish the chapter. Ask the students what they think of Mark's decisions. Remind them that camping is great fun, but an inexperienced camper should never wander off alone.
4. Let the students know that there is a whole lot more to the story, such as why Mark got in trouble in the first place. They can read to find out more!

## Make an Armadillo



The armadillo has hard, bony plates or “armor” that protect it from animal predators. There are nine “bands” or joints in the armor. The bands let the armadillo roll up into a ball for more protection. Armadillos eat insects and dig burrows. They always have four babies, which develop from the same egg!

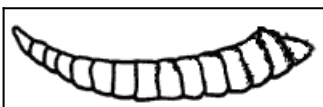
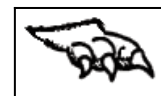
### What You Need:

- Scissors
- Glue
- One 8” by 5” piece of corrugated cardboard
- Plastic cap from ball point pen
- Pencil
- Crayons or markers

### Directions:

1. Trace the body of the armadillo onto the piece of corrugated cardboard.
2. Color the other armadillo body parts brown.
3. Cut out the colored body parts of the armadillo and glue them onto the cardboard to make an armadillo.  
**The rough corrugated area feels similar to the rough protective shell of the armadillo!**

**Cut out these body parts and color. Paste onto the cardboard. Or draw and color body parts on the cardboard.**



**Animals you might see if you are camping in Central Texas:**



Bobcat



Cliff Swallow



Mexican Free Tailed Bat



White Tailed Deer



Screech Owl

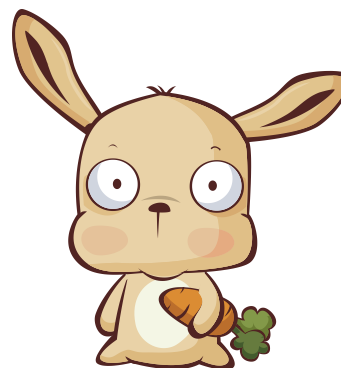


Turkeys

## Camp Songs

### Do Your Ears Hang Low?

Do your ears hang low;  
Do they wobble to and fro?  
Can you tie 'em in a knot;  
Can you tie 'em in a bow?  
Can you throw 'em over your shoulder,  
Like a continental soldier?  
Do you ears hang low?



### If you're Happy and you Know it!

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands (Clap, clap) (2X)  
If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it,  
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.

### Grey Squirrel

Grey Squirrel  
Grey Squirrel  
Swish your bushy tail

Grey Squirrel  
Grey Squirrel  
Swish your bushy tail

Hide a nut between your toes -  
Wrinkle up your little nose.

Grey Squirrel  
Grey Squirrel  
Swish your bushy tail



### Tarzan (tune of Glory Glory Hallelujah)

I like coconuts, bananas, nuts and grapes (x3)

That's why they call me TARZAN OF THE APES !

