

Activity: After Dark

Grade Level: Grade 4

Major Emphasis: Evening Activities

Major Curriculum Area: Human Relations

Related Curriculum Areas:

- Science
- Physical Education
- Language Arts
- Art
- Music

Program Indicator: (DL1)

The student will develop skills that enhance the use of leisure time and increase social skills with peers and adults.

Student Outcomes: The student will:

1. participate in evening activities designed to use leisure time, increase social skills and develop psychomotor skills.
2. explore opportunities for learning and fun available at night.
3. record thoughts and feelings to daily activities using a journal.

Readiness:

1. Review the agenda for the evening activities at camp.
2. Provide practice or preparation time for some of the activities such as songs, skits, dancing, etc.
Note: Involvement of Physical Education, Music and Art teachers in preparing students for the activities is a wonderful use of your resources.
3. Review the behavioral expectations of student conduct and participation in the evening activities.
4. Review journal expectations.

Materials:

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| wood | ice cream makers | shovels |
| bean bags | flashlight | tape player |
| extension cord | telescope | journals |
| pencils | crayons | banner material |
| matches | watering can | rope |
| parachute | archery | |

Procedures:

Refer to the "Teacher Resources" for references containing detailed directions for the following activities. It is not possible to do all of these activities in one evening.

1. *Campfires:* This activity can be the highlight of your evening activities. Campfires can include individual and group songs, prepared stories, skits, puppet shows, games and snacks. Special singers or storytellers can be invited. Campfires can revolve around themes such as Native American activities. **(MC)**

2. *Homemade Ice Cream:* Using a prepared recipe, the students can make their own evening treat. Students can participate by measuring, pouring, mixing ingredients and serving. The center will provide the machine and the recipe. All you need are the ingredients. Zip-lock baggies (2 per child) can be used to make individual ice cream makers.

3. *Positive Environmental Projects:* Tree plantings or rededication, wildflower plantings or simple conservation efforts can be an important part of your class's experience. The school class must provide the tree or flowers. A short ceremony can be planned to show appreciation for trees and their role in the environment.

9. *Banner Making*: During an overnight experience, the class may want to create a cloth banner to illustrate and commemorate their stay. A contest to develop the idea and design could be fun and the winning design could be created by a smaller group of students supervised by an adult. The banner could be presented to the center at the final meal and hung in the dining hall. **Material for the banner is provided by the outdoor education program.**

Follow-Up:

1. Complete and share entries of journals.
2. Create a class/group newspaper based upon student experiences at the Outdoor Education Center. Using Desktop Publishing will make this task even better.

Extension Activities:

Explore leisure activities of children in other cultures such as Japan and Kenya. (MC)

Teacher Resources:

Books:

- < American Folk Tales and Songs, Chase, 784.4.
- < *Art of the Story-Teller, The.
- < *Campfire Programs with Jack Pearse, Pearse, 796.54.
- < *Handbook of Skits and Stunts, Eisenberg, 791.
- < *Informal Recreational Activities, Ford, 790.
- < *More Campfire Programs with Jack Pearse, Pearse, 796.54.
- < *More New Games Book, Fluegelman, 794.
- < *New Games Book, Fluegelman, 794.
- < *Pocketful of Songs, A, World Around Songs, 91-60288.
- < *Silver Bullets, Rohnke, 796.5.
- < *Sing!, American Camping Association, 792.
- < *Sing with Jack Pearse, Pearse, 790.1.
- < *Singing is Fun, Blankenship, 792.
- < *Tent Trail Songs, Songbook for Camping, Exmer.
- < *Very Favorites of the Very Young: Songs for 3-6 Year Olds.

Journal Ideas

1. List foods you ate in the proper food groups (Dairy, Fruit/Vegetables, Meat/Eggs, Bread/Cereal).
2. Draw a picture of the cabin in which you slept. Label the windows, doors, bathroom, etc. Put an "X" on the bed where you slept.
3. Describe your special job and tell why you like or disliked it. If you did not have a special job, pretend you did and describe your experience.
4. Draw a picture of you doing your job.
5. Write what you liked best about the daytime activities.
6. Draw a picture of you and your friends at the campfire.
7. Write what you like best about the campfire/film/homemade ice cream.
8. Name some of the things you heard at night.
9. Name some of the things you saw at night.
10. Name some of the things you smelled at night.
11. Write a poem about your camp experience.
12. Write a short paragraph describing your experiences to a friend.
13. Your favorite activity was _____ because _____
_____.
14. The activity you did not like was _____ because _____
_____.
15. Overall, you thought all the activities were _____ because _____
_____.
16. Draw a picture of yourself doing your favorite activity.