



# 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 with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, what do you think this story is about? 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. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. 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

- 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-people who oversee, protect and patrol forests or national parks
- wildlife-wild animals, birds, and other living things
- tracks-marks left by a moving person, animal, or thing
- underground-located or operating beneath the surface of the Earth
- burrows-holes or tunnels dug as a living space by small animals such as rabbits
- vistas-scenic or panoramic views



- 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 , in the male, large antlers
- cozy-warm, comfortable, and snug

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Can you name different places to camp?
- What activities can you do at the beach?
- Can you name the world's most amazing canyon?
- What is an important piece of gear needed for hiking? 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?
- 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 stargazed when camping? Name some?
- What are some of the organizations that teach you about camping? Are you a Boy Scout or Girl Scout?
- Have you ever been to a national, state, regional or private park? Where? When?
- What are the people called that work at national parks, etc? Do you know a Park 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 camped in the winter?

**DO**

### Prepare S'mores

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.

