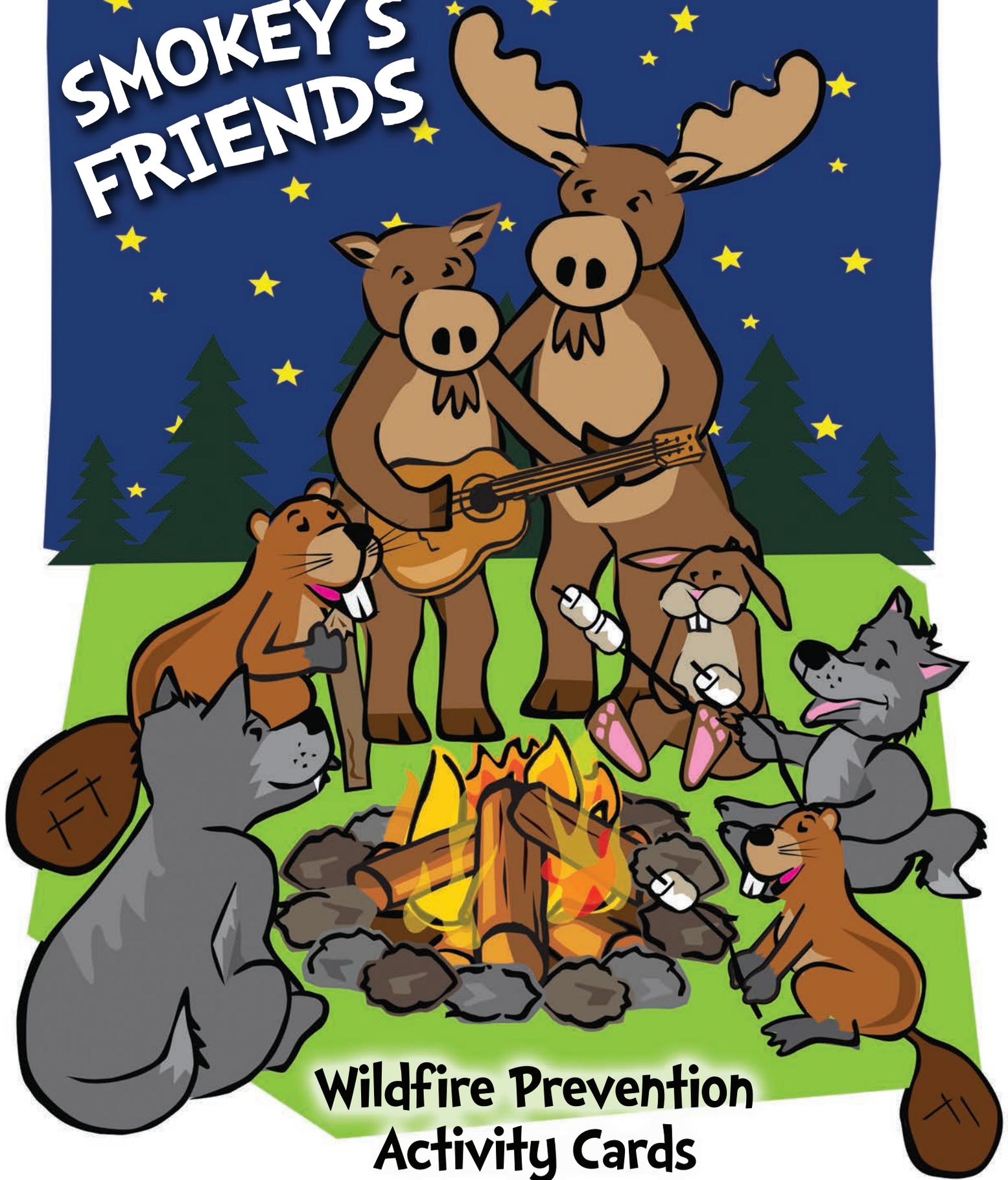


SMOKEY'S FRIENDS



**Wildfire Prevention
Activity Cards**

SMOKEY'S FRIENDS: Wildfire Prevention Activity Cards

Goal:

The activity cards are intended to raise children's awareness of basic wildfire prevention concepts by helping them understand that fire can be good or safe as well as bad or destructive depending on how it is used or controlled.

Audience:

Pre-Kindergarten through 2nd grade

Use:

The activity cards are designed for use in a classroom or story-time type setting with an adult leader. Users should feel free to use some or all of the eleven cards in the set to better fit their situation. Each card has a large illustration intended to face the student while the instructor's side contains a small version of the illustration and supporting information for that image to help guide discussion.

Instruct the children that you are going to show some pictures of different ways fire is a part of our everyday life. Show an illustration and read the "hot topic" of that particular card. After letting them view it for a moment, ask the group to give a thumbs up or thumbs down on whether the illustration shows a "good fire" or a "bad fire."

Discuss why the fire is good or bad. Utilize the additional information for each illustration to ask follow-up questions to further explore the theme for each card. Some cards also have optional discussion questions and activities.

Time:

The complete set of activity cards takes 15 - 30 minutes depending on amount of discussion. It is recommended to keep the discussion shorter (10 min.) for younger children.

Resources:

Additional coloring sheets, games, activities and information about fire prevention are available:

- Smokey Bear website: www.smokeybear.com
- Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact website: www.glffc.com
- Check your local fire management agency website

Thanks:

These activity cards were a collaborative effort by member agencies of the Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Ontario and Manitoba).





Hot Topic: Birthday Candles



Is this a good fire or a bad fire?

Answer: GOOD FIRE

Why is this a good fire?

Answers:

- It's a celebration of someone's birthday
- Grown-up around
- Candles are being blown out

Optional discussion:

Does anyone know how old Smokey Bear is?

Answer: Smokey's official birthday is August 9th, 1944

What is Smokey's favorite saying?

Answer: Only you can prevent wildfires!

Does anyone in your family use candles around your house?

Answers:

- Make sure they are used by grown-ups
- Remember they are not a toy

Optional activity:

Have a birthday party to celebrate Smokey and help spread his message.



Hot Topic: Barbeque Grills



Is this a good fire or a bad fire?

Answer: GOOD FIRE

Why is this a good fire?

Answers:

- Use fire to help cook food
- Grown-up around
- Using tools to stay safe
- Little moose is keeping a safe distance because it's hot

Optional discussion:

What are some other foods that can be cooked on a grill?

Answers:

- Hamburgers
- Hot dogs
- Corn on the cob
- Kabobs

How is this fire different from a campfire?

Answers:

- BBQ grill is only used for cooking and generally more contained
- Campfires are used for cooking, warming, and light



Hot Topic: Campfires



Is this a good fire or a bad fire?

Answer: GOOD FIRE

Why is this a good fire?

Answers:

- Grown-up around
- Water and shovel (tools)
- Fire is contained with rocks
- Area around campfire cleared

Optional discussion:

What's a campfire used for?

Answers:

- Warming
- Cooking
- Light
- Telling stories with friends and family

Before leaving the fire, what should you do?

Answer: Make sure it is completely out using water and a shovel

How do you roast a marshmallow safely?

Answer: Kneel next to the fire so you don't fall in (three points of contact on the ground) and stay at a safe distance so your clothes do not catch on fire



Hot Topic: Fireworks



Is this a good fire or a bad fire?

Answer: GOOD FIRE

Why is this a good fire?

Answers:

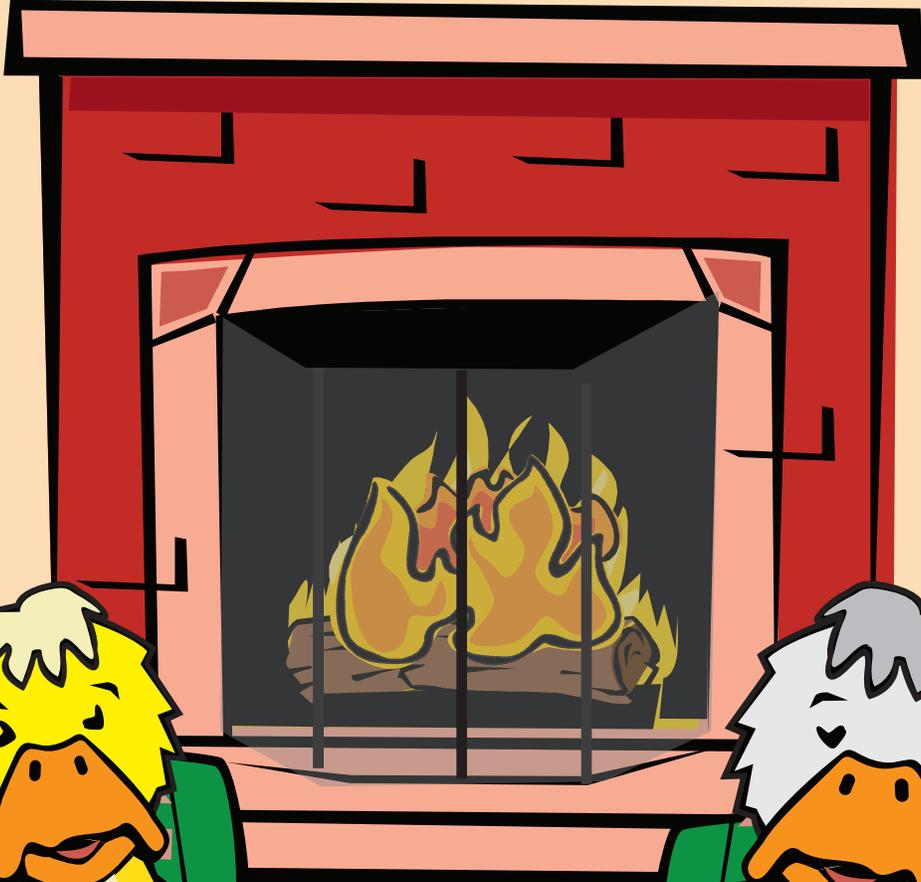
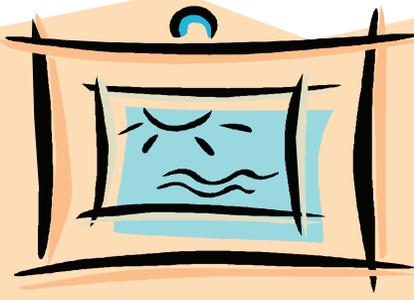
- It's a celebration
- It's fun to "ooh" and "aah" at the pretty colors
- Everyone is a safe distance from fireworks
- Trained professionals in charge of lighting the fireworks

Optional discussion:

Have you ever used sparklers before?

Answers:

- Sparklers are fireworks
- Only use with a grown-up around
- Avoid dry grassy areas (can start a wildfire)
- Have a bucket of water to make sure they are out before putting them in garbage



Hot Topic: Fireplaces & Woodstoves



Is this a good fire or a bad fire?

Answer: GOOD FIRE

Why is this a good fire?

Answers:

- Keeps our homes warm and toasty
- Grown-up around
- In a safe (contained) area
- Screen or glass in front of fire to keep sparks (embers) from flying out

Optional discussion:

Does anyone have a woodstove in their house?

Answer:

- Woodstoves are also used to heat homes, but they look different than fireplaces and can be very hot, so don't touch

Does anyone know how a wildfire can start from a fireplace or woodstove?

Answers:

- Sparks can escape from the chimney
- When grown-ups clean out hot ashes (embers) they sometimes throw them outside and if they are still hot, they can cause a wildfire



Hot Topic: Matches & Lighters



Is this a good fire or a bad fire?

Answer: BAD FIRE

Why is this a bad fire?

Answers:

- Matches and lighters are tools, not toys
- Should only be used by a grown-up to start a safe fire

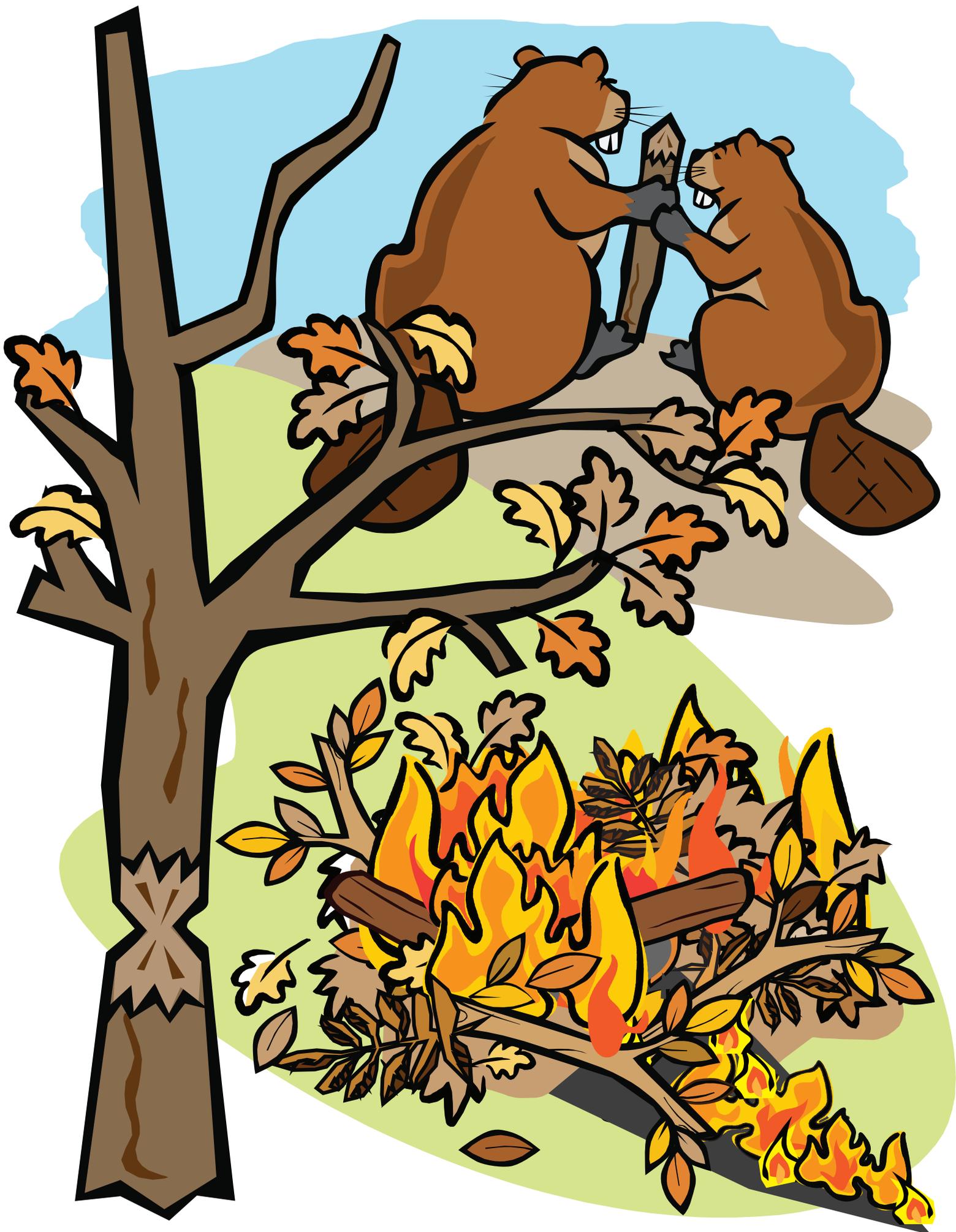
Optional discussion:

What do you do if you find matches or lighters?

Answer: Give them to a grown-up

What should you do if you see other kids playing with matches or lighters?

Answer: Tell a grown-up



Hot Topic: Leaves & Brush



Is this a good fire or a bad fire?

Answer: BAD FIRE

Why is this a bad fire?

Answers:

- No one is watching the fire
- No tools to keep it under control
- The location of the fire is near a tree with overhanging branches

Optional discussion:

Instead of burning, what can you do with leaves and brush?

Answers:

- Compost
- Put them in the woods for animals to use as homes or to hide
- Take them to a recycling place (transfer site)



Hot Topic: House Fires



Is this a good fire or a bad fire?

Answer: BAD FIRE

Why is this a bad fire?

Answers:

- House is on fire and you or your family could get hurt
- Could lose all your things

Optional discussion:

If you smell smoke in your house, what should you do?

Answers:

- Get out and stay out
- Call 911
- Know your address

What are things you can do to be prepared in case your home starts on fire?

Answers:

- Talk to your family
- Go to a safe place
- Have an escape plan
- Check batteries in smoke detectors

Remember, firefighters can sometimes look scary, but they are there to help!

Optional activity:

- Practice stop, drop and roll
- Explain the differences between wildland firefighter vs. structural firefighter (tactics, equipment, uniform, trucks, etc.)



Hot Topic: Campfires



Is this a good fire or a bad fire?

Answer: BAD FIRE

Why is this a bad fire?

Answers:

- No one is watching the fire
- No ring or rocks to keep it contained
- No tools to keep it under control
- Appears to be a windy day
(point to trees blowing in wind)

Optional discussion:

Does anyone know what an “ember” is?

Answers:

- Embers are sparks or coals that are very hot and may glow bright orange
- Embers can remain hot for a very long time so it's important to make sure embers are cold before leaving the fire

Optional activity:

Ask the kids to stand-up and pretend they are putting out a campfire. Use a bucket of water (pouring motion) and a shovel (stirring motion), pour and stir again, keep doing this until the “pretend” campfire is cold.



Hot Topic: Garbage Fires



Is this a good fire or a bad fire?

Answer: BAD FIRE

Why is this a bad fire?

Answers:

- **Burning garbage is bad for the air we breathe**
- **It's stinky and can bother neighbors**
- **Bad for our health and can make us cough (sick)**
- **It is illegal to burn things like plastic**
- **Fire in burn barrels can cause wildfires**

Optional discussion:

What are some other things you can do with your garbage?

Answers:

- **Recycle**
- **Garbage truck picks it up**
- **Take trash to the dump (landfill)**



Hot Topic: Wildfires



Is this a good fire or a bad fire?

Answer: BAD FIRE

Why is this a bad fire?

Answers:

- Wildfire is out of control
- Burning too close to homes and town (community) and sometimes the homes can burn down

Optional discussion:

What are some things around your home that could easily burn in a fire?

Answers:

- Firewood pile
- Trees or shrubs
- Wooden deck
- Dead pine needles or leaves

What do you do if you see a wildfire (smoke)?

Answers:

- Tell an adult
- Call 911

If a wildfire is burning towards your house, what important things should you take if you have to leave?

Answers:

- Pets
- Medicine
- Purse or Wallet (money)
- Pictures
- Phone