

'Camping for Boys' by H.W. Gibson (1913)

The Site

When selecting a camp site, bear in mind these things:

1. Avoid very sandy soil. Sand provides little hold for tent pegs and there is a big risk of damage should it become windy.
2. Choose an open field, surrounded by hills or sheltering trees, and facing the water.
3. Choose a place with plenty of good drinking water and water for swimming.
4. Set up a base in which supplies can be kept within a short distance, not more than four miles away.

Avoid Swamps

The location chosen for a camp should be away from swamps. Avoid swampy and low places. Damp places where there are mosquitoes should be well-drained and open to an abundance of sunshine. Mosquitoes breed only in water but merely two inches of water standing in an old tin can will breed hundreds. They are not only a nuisance, but dangerous, as they can spread malaria and typhoid with their poisonous stings.

Rubbish

Rubbish, including the waste from the table, soon becoming the ideal breeding place for flies if stored in open bins in warm weather. Keep rubbish covered in a metal bin, which should be washed and dried after emptying. If the camp is located near a farm, give the food waste to the farmer. It is the natural food of pigs and chicken. Where this is not possible, the rubbish should be disposed of in the bins provided every day, or safely buried in the earth and covered with 10cm of dirt. Do not throw dirty dish water carelessly upon the ground. Dig a trench and put the water in this trench.



1. '...open to an abundance of sunshine.' What do you think the word 'abundance' means in this sentence?



2. Give two reasons from the text why campers need to avoid mosquitoes.



3. Why do you think the author advises not to 'throw dirty dish water carelessly upon the ground'?



4. Summarise the main point from each section of text.

Sub-heading 1) _____

Sub-heading 2) _____

Sub-heading 3) _____

'Camping for Boys' by H.W. Gibson (1913) Answers

1. '...open to an abundance of sunshine.' What do you think the word 'abundance' means in this sentence?

Accept any reasonable answer referring to a plentiful supply, e.g. lots of, plenty of.

2. Give two reasons from the text why campers need to avoid mosquitoes.

Accept two of the following answers:

They are a nuisance.

They are dangerous because they spread diseases (malaria and typhoid).

They have a poisonous sting.

3. Why do you think the author advises not to 'throw dirty dish water carelessly upon the ground'?

Accept any reasonable answers regarding safety, hygiene and cleanliness, e.g.

The ground will become soggy and muddy.

The dish water will attract mosquitoes.

It is unhygienic and may spread diseases.

Somebody may slip in the mud it causes and hurt themselves.

4. Summarise the main point from each section of text.

Accept any reasonable answers which summarise the key point of the paragraphs, e.g.

Sub-heading 1) Choose an open field with a good water supply.

Pitch your tent in an open field which does not have sandy soil.

Set up your tent in a good field which is near water and supplies.

Sub-heading 2) Stay away from swamps to avoid mosquitoes.

Stay away from mosquitoes by avoiding swamps / open water.

Sub-heading 3) Dispose of rubbish safely / sensibly.

Get rid of rubbish regularly to avoid flies.