

# Ottawa National Forest

## *Take Smokey Home*





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For Information About the Ottawa National Forest Visit:

[www.fs.usda.gov/ottawa](http://www.fs.usda.gov/ottawa)



Visit the Ottawa National Forest Conservation Education Page:

[www.fs.usda.gov/main/ottawa/learning](http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/ottawa/learning)



Visit the Ottawa National Forest on Social Media:

Twitter: [twitter.com/OttawaNF](https://twitter.com/OttawaNF)



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Discover National Forests!

[discovertheforest.org](http://discovertheforest.org)





***Take Smokey Home*** is a fire education and prevention program that can be done either at school or at home. It fosters respect and an understanding of the responsibility that comes with utilizing fire.

This program is best suited for K- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade education levels but may be adjusted with some imagination for older students.

The student will learn about forests, wildfire, the history of Smokey Bear, and Smokey's 5 Rules of Wildfire Prevention.

There are hyperlinks with QR codes to Smokey Bear's webpage, social media pages, as well as some fun fire education activities.

Smokey Bear Website: [www.smokeybear.com](http://www.smokeybear.com)



Smokey Bear YouTube: [www.youtube.com/user/Smokeybear](http://www.youtube.com/user/Smokeybear)



Smokey Bear Facebook @SmokeyBear: [www.facebook.com/smokeybear](http://www.facebook.com/smokeybear)



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Forests are truly amazing places covering almost a third of the Earth's land, including over 700 million acres in the United States (that's about 529 million football fields!). Forests are home to a huge variety of plants and animals, providing them with food, water, and shelter. Our forests are very valuable. Not only are they places of beauty and outdoor fun, we also rely on trees for fuel, food, raw materials, and medicine. Even more importantly, trees and plants in the forest make sure that the Earth's temperature is livable and that we have enough oxygen to breathe.

Some phenomena affect forest health and the way ecosystems function. Wildfire is one of those phenomena. Wildfire is an uncontrolled fire in a forest, grassland, or agricultural area. Unplanned and unwanted wildfires are very dangerous to people who use forests, outdoor areas, or live in nearby homes and communities. Wildfires can also cause a lot of damage to some plants, animals, and their habitat.

In some cases, fire is good for a forest (natural wildfire or prescribed fire), but unplanned fires that burn too hot at the wrong time can make it hard for the forest to recover. Can a forest ever recover from wildfire? The answer is yes, but unfortunately, it can take a very long time. An average forest is about 70–100 years old, and the trees in some forests can be 4,000–5,000 years old!

The Ottawa National Forest has nearly 1,000,000 acres of Forest which is the equivalent of nearly 1,000,000 football fields! With so much area, there are many great ways to enjoy the Forest, one very common way is camping.

🐾 Do you go camping on the Forest?

🐾 When you think of camping what do you think of?

🐾 Do you have a campfire?



Campfires are really great for cooking, staying warm, making s'mores, providing light, and comfort. However, having a fire in any form comes with great responsibility.

If left unattended a campfire can spread turning into a larger unwanted wildfire.

There are two types of wildfires: **Natural** or **Human Caused**

**Examples of natural cause wildfire:** lightning, volcanic eruption, spontaneous combustion

**Examples of human caused wildfires:** campfires, fireworks, sparks from machinery

To protect our forests, we need to always treat nature with respect and be careful when we are enjoying the outdoors.





## ***Smokey Bear***

Long ago the U.S. Forest Service introduced Smokey Bear as a National Symbol to help teach the importance of wildfire prevention.

Let's watch [A Day in the Forest with Smokey Bear](#) to learn more about Smokey Bear and why wildfire prevention is so important.

***Click the link to watch:***

[A Day in the Forest with Smokey Bear](#)

Another fun video to help you remember the 5 Rules of Wildfire Prevention.

***Click the link to watch:***

[New Smokey Bear Song - 2015](#)

### ***Let's Review Smokey's 5 Rules of Wildfire Prevention:***

1. Only you can prevent wildfires!
2. **Always Be Careful** with fire.
3. Never play with matches or lighters.
4. Always watch your campfire.
5. Make sure your campfire is completely out before leaving it.

## ***Letter to Smokey!***

- 🐾 Now that you have learned about wildfire and Smokey Bear's 5 rules of Fire Prevention, are there some things you can do to help prevent wildfires?
  
- 🐾 Either write your answer in a letter to Smokey Bear or draw him a picture!!



# Smokey's Story

**I**n 1950, a tiny bear cub played happily in the forest.

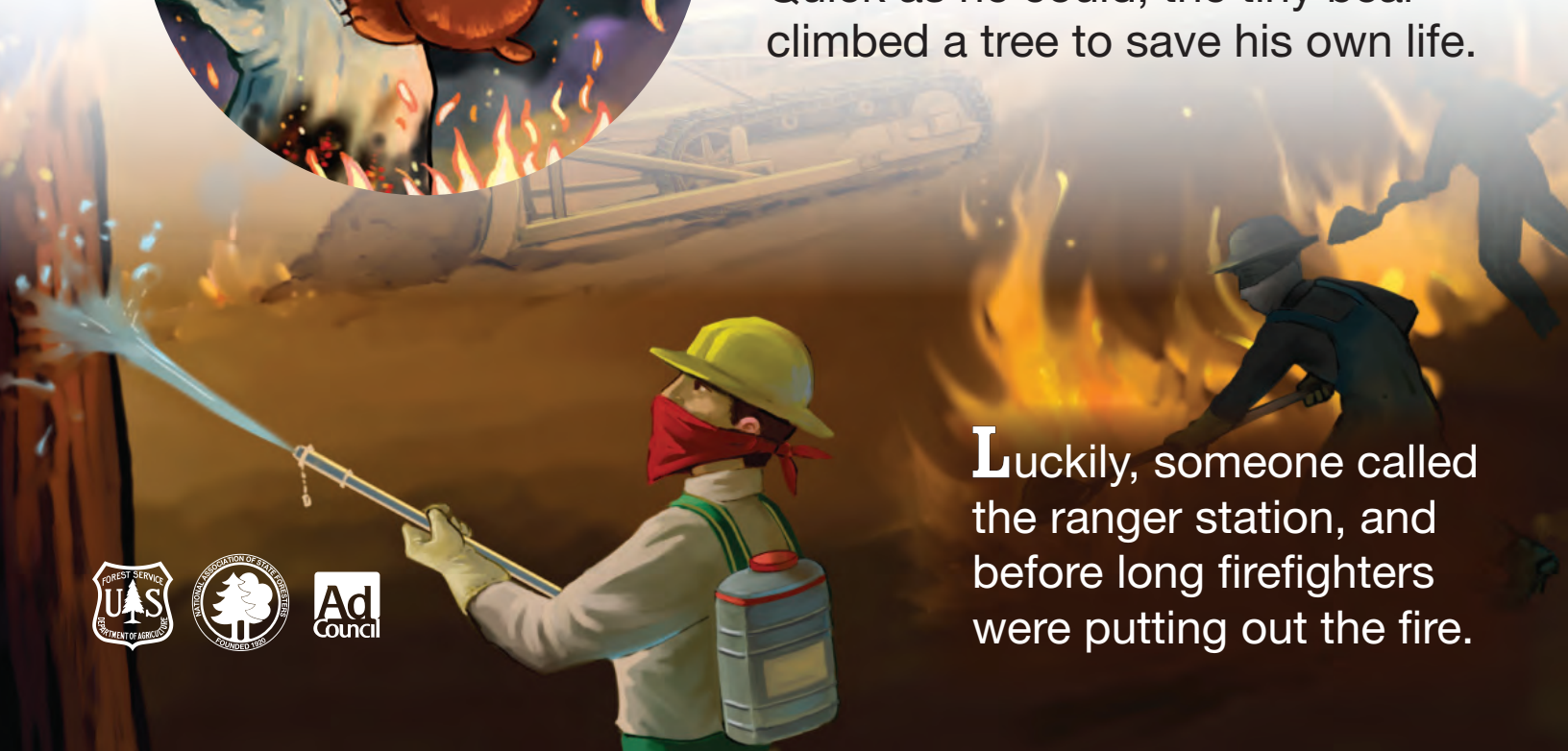
Somewhere in the forest, people were being careless with their fire.



**S**oon the fire was burning out of control – a wildfire! Trees and bushes were in flames!

Quick as he could, the tiny bear climbed a tree to save his own life.

**L**uckily, someone called the ranger station, and before long firefighters were putting out the fire.

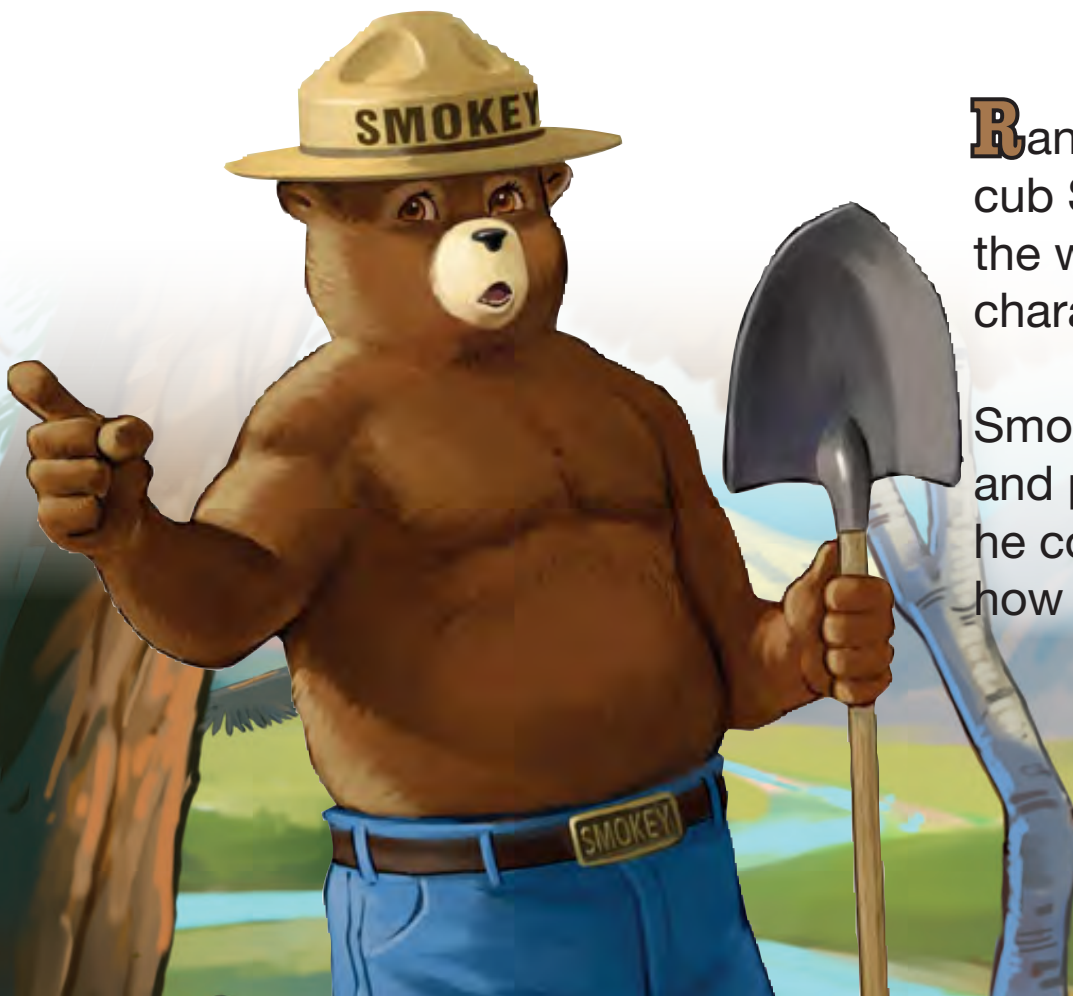




**A** firefighter rescued the cub who was injured and very scared. The firefighter gave the cub to Ranger Ray Bell.



Ranger Ray and his daughter brought the tiny bear to Dr. Edwin Smith, an animal doctor, who fixed the cub's injuries and returned him to Ranger Ray.



**R**anger Ray named the cub Smokey Bear, after the wildfire prevention character.

Smokey Bear grew up and promised to do all he could to teach people how to prevent wildfires.

**S**mokey Bear wants you to know the **five rules** of fire prevention.

## **RULE 1**

**Only *you* can prevent wildfires.**



## **RULE 2**

**Always Be Careful with fire.**



## **RULE 3**

**Never play with matches or lighters.**



# RULE 4

Always watch your campfire.



# RULE 5

Make sure your campfire is completely out before leaving it.



**S**mokey Bear needs **YOU** to follow these rules to help prevent wildfires.



[www.smokeybear.com](http://www.smokeybear.com)



**SMOKEY BEAR WANTS YOU TO KNOW THE FIVE RULES OF FIRE PREVENTION.**

**RULE 1**  
Only you can prevent wildfires.

**RULE 2**  
Always Be Careful with fire.

**RULE 3**  
Never play with matches or lighters.

Smokey Bear wants you to know the five rules of fire prevention.

**RULE 4**  
Always watch your campfire.

**RULE 5**  
Make sure your campfire is completely out before leaving it.

Smokey Bear needs YOU to follow these rules to help prevent wildfires.



www.smokeybear.com



# Smokey's Story

In 1950, a tiny bear cub played happily in the forest.

Somewhere in the forest, people were being careless with their fire.

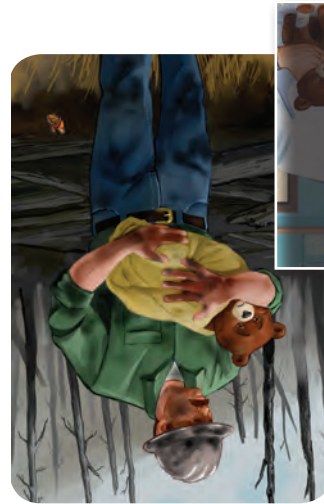


Soon the fire was burning out of control – a wildfire! Trees and bushes were in flames!

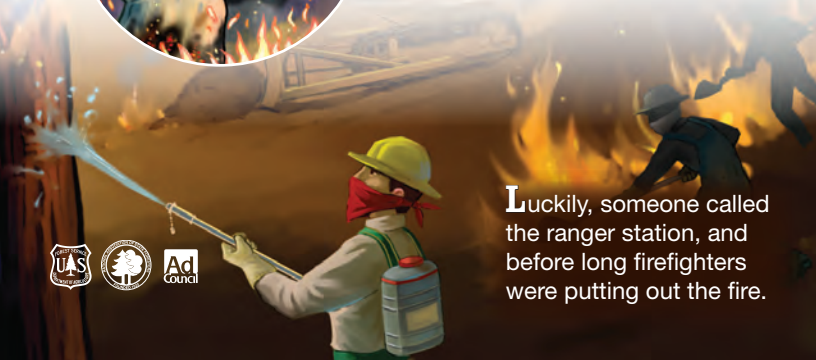
Quick as he could, the tiny bear climbed a tree to save his own life.



Ranger Ray named the cub Smokey Bear, after Smokey Bear grew up and promised to do all he could to teach people how to prevent wildfires.



A firefighter rescued the cub who was injured and very scared. The firefighter gave the cub to Ranger Ray Bell. Ranger Ray and his daughter brought the tiny bear to Dr. Edwin Smith, an animal doctor, who fixed the cub's injuries and returned him to Ranger Ray.



Luckily, someone called the ranger station, and before long firefighters were putting out the fire.



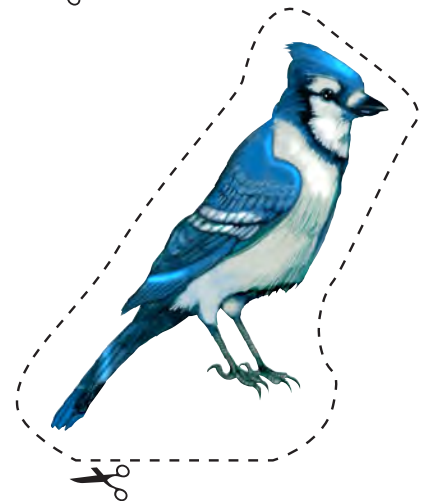
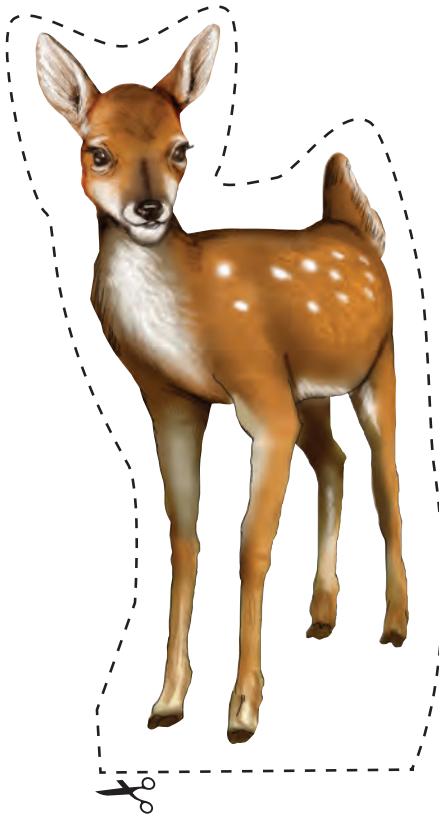
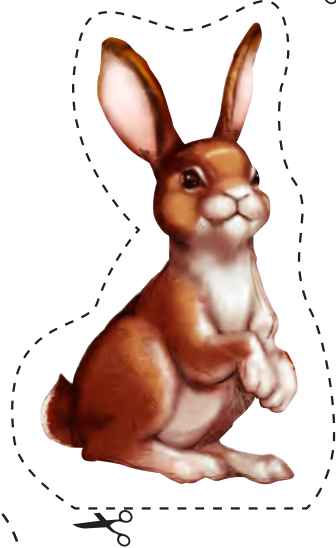
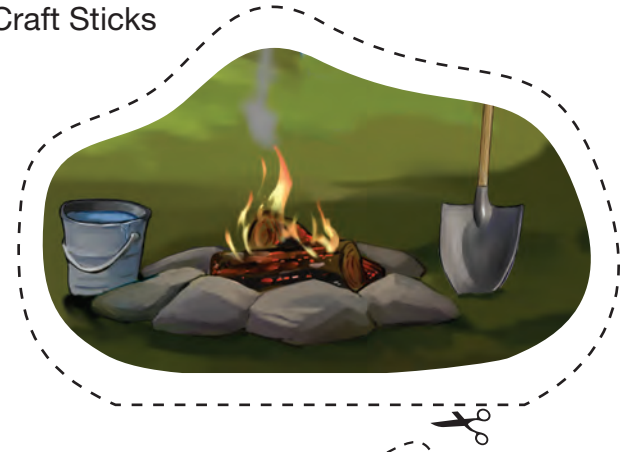
# Smokey Bear & Friends

## Stick Puppets

See Preventing Wildfires activity on page 6 of Teacher's Guide.

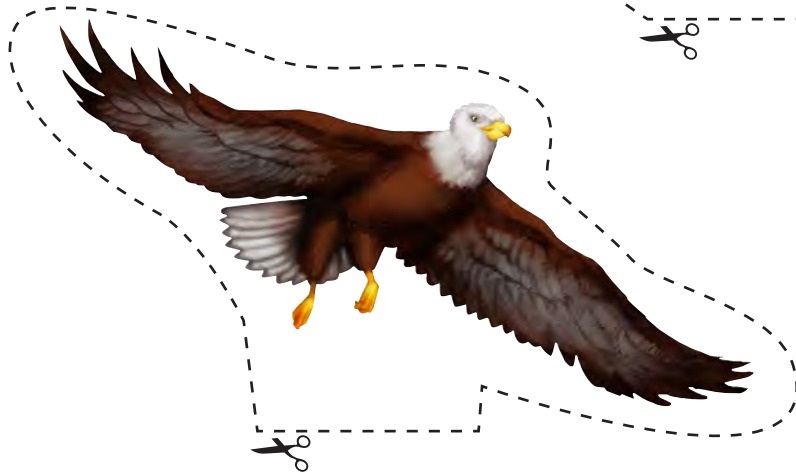
### Supplies needed:

- Scissors
- Tape
- Craft Sticks



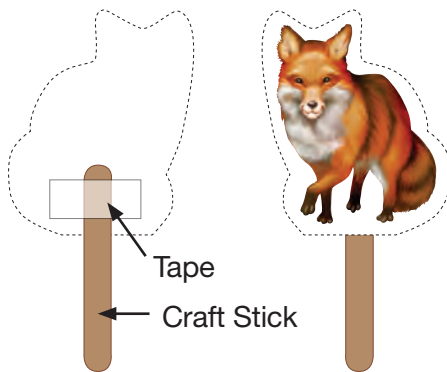
# Smokey Bear & Friends

## Stick Puppets



## Puppet/Stage and Mini-Book Assembly

Make stick puppets and cut out stage.



Cut along dotted line.

To assemble the mini-book:

- Photocopy/print one mini-book page for each student.
- Fold in half along horizontal line.
- Fold again along vertical line.
- Share your book to spread the word!



# Hey Kids!

1. Complete the Dot-to-Dot to make a mini-poster. Color it in!
2. Share it with your family!

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your name)  
**can prevent wildfires.**



## Family Talk!

### Dear Parent/Caregiver:

Did you learn about Smokey Bear when you were young? What Smokey Bear stories can you remember? Please take a moment to share your memories with your child. If you are not familiar with Smokey Bear, invite your child to share Smokey's story with you!



**Smokey Bear's**



## **Partner Certificate**

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\_\_\_\_\_ has earned this  
**Smokey Bear's Partner Certificate**  
by  
demonstrating knowledge of  
**Smokey Bear's Five Rules for Fire Prevention**  
and pledging to follow them  
at all times.

**Smokey Bear's Five Rules for Fire Prevention:**

1. Only you can prevent wildfires.
2. Always be careful with fire.
3. Never play with matches or lighters.
4. Always watch your campfire.
5. Make sure your campfire is completely out before leaving it.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_