

Which type of shoes should you wear when you are in camp and setting up your tent?

- a) Soft-soled shoes like tennis shoes.
- b) Boots.

If you chose

- a) Add a solid brown wedge—wearing soft-soled shoes preserves the topsoil surrounding the campsite, allows vegetation to grow, and keeps erosion to a minimum.
- b) Add a striped brown wedge—wearing boots churns up the topsoil and vegetation and makes the campsite susceptible to erosion.

What should you do when you encounter a big mud puddle on a portage?

- a) Step to the side of it.
- b) Walk through it.

If you chose

- a) Add a striped brown wedge—stepping to the side makes the soil on the side muddier and the puddle larger.
- b) Add a solid brown wedge—walking through it does not hurt your boots and prevents making the puddle larger.

Your sister cleans up the campsite and dumps the trash in the latrine. Was that a good idea?

- a) Yes.
- b) No.

If you chose

- a) Add a striped brown wedge—dumping trash in the latrine prevents the trash from decomposing.
- b) Add a solid brown wedge—packing out trash preserves the campsite.

Where should you pitch a tent?

- a) On a site where previous visitors have camped.
- b) On a site with soft moss away from the lake.

If you chose

- a) Add a solid brown wedge—pitching your tent in designated areas limits trampling of the vegetation.
- b) Add a striped brown wedge—pitching your tent on moss damages it and compacts the soil underneath.

Your uncle tells you about how he used to dig a trench around his tent to help keep it dry. Should you try this technique at your campsite?

- a) Yes.
- b) No.

If you chose

- a) Add a striped brown wedge—digging a trench disturbs the topsoil, cuts roots, and gets bigger as it rains and the water pools inside of it. It will be a problem for the next people on the site; their tent almost certainly will not be the same shape and size as your tent.
- b) Add a solid brown wedge—forgoing the digging of a ditch and instead bringing a plastic tarp or pitching your tent at a higher tent site keeps you dry.

You really have to relieve yourself at a lunch break but there is no latrine. What should you do?

- a) Dig a hole 150 feet away from water.
- b) Go behind a rock 50 feet away from your group.

If you chose

- a) Add a solid brown wedge—digging a hole and burying human waste away from water allows the soil to decompose the waste and prevents the waste from contaminating the water.
- b) Add a striped brown wedge—going behind a rock contaminates the site and leaves a mess.

There are several people at your campsite who need to use the latrine. What should they do?

- a) Wait their turn to use the latrine.
- b) Dig a hole for each person to relieve him or herself.

If you chose

- a) Add a solid brown wedge—waiting their turn and only using latrines, when they are available, prevents water contamination.
- b) Add a striped brown wedge—digging and using a hole is okay, but latrines should be used if they are available. Holes all over the campsite are a mess and a health hazard.

After dinner you're finished with the dishes and need to dump the dishwasher. Where should you dump it?

- a) By the side of the fire grate.
- b) Scatter it in the woods.
- c) Strain it and dump the water in the woods.

If you chose

- a) or b) Add a striped brown wedge—dumping it near the fire grate or in the woods leaves food scraps and attracts animals.
- c) Add a solid brown wedge—straining it retains food scraps for packing out. Dumping it allows plants to absorb the “gray” water, or water that is left over.

You and your friend want some peace and quiet from the other campers in your group. Where should you pitch your tent?

- a) Further away in the same campsite.
- b) On a new site which you make 100 feet away from the group.
- c) Close to the other tents.

If you chose

- a) Add a solid brown wedge—pitching it on a designated campsite area restricts your impact.
- b) Add a striped wedge—making a new campsite damages vegetation and soil in the campsite.
- c) Add solid brown wedge AND take a bonus chip or flip over a striped brown wedge to reveal the solid colored side—pitching it close to the other tents minimizes the total impact on the soil by decreasing the area that is walked on and compacted.

At the end of the trip you want to get rid of the worms you brought for fishing. What should you do with them?

- a) Let them out at your campsite.
- b) Bring them home.

If you chose

- a) Add a striped brown wedge—releasing worms that are often non-native to the BWCAW damages an area by invading and eating the leaf litter that other organisms use to survive and create new soil.
- b) Add a solid brown wedge—taking home the worms and disposing of them ensures that they will not damage the soil.



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Choice Card

**Soil**



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