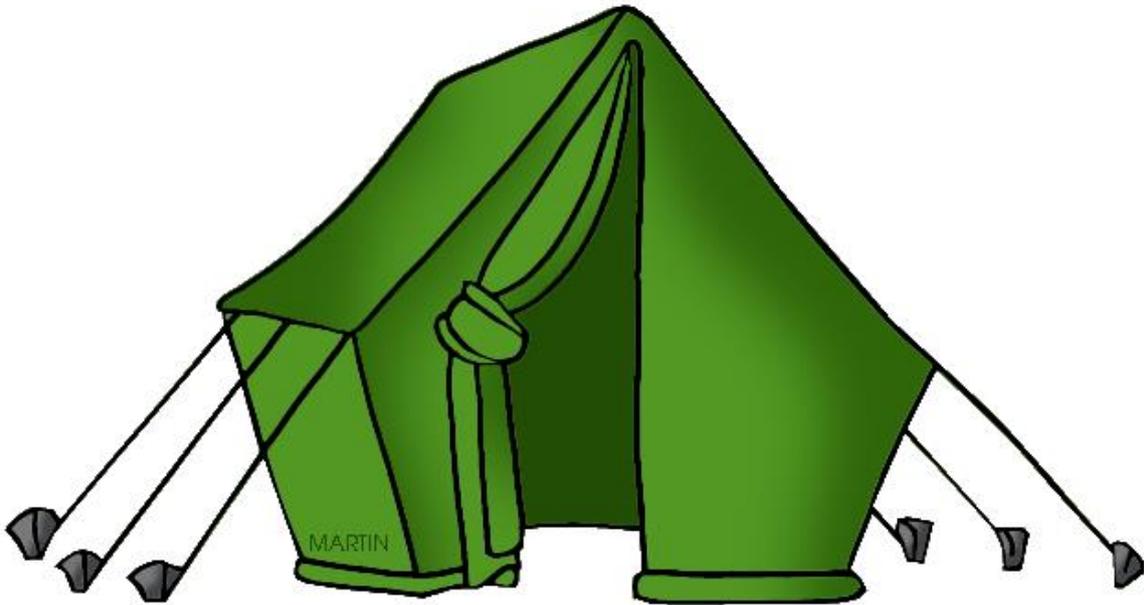


Session 6: Tents



It is important to be familiar with the parts of a tent as they may be referred to throughout this sheet.

Although the different tents may look as though they all have different parts, they are in fact comprised of many common features – and although they may vary in their size and shape, they all do the same thing.

Parts of a Tent

Guy lines - A guy line is a single line or rope which comes from a part of the tent which, when the tent is pegged into the ground and when the guy line is pulled tight, creates the familiar tent shape. Badly tensioned lines cause a tent to sag and when raining, pockets of water form which may then drip into the tent. These lines also help to keep the tent down in high winds



Runner - This is a wooden or plastic bracket that is attached to the guy line, and aids the shortening of the line

Pegging point - As the name suggests, this is the place in which you put the tent peg. On a lightweight hiking tent, the pegging points are rubber bands that are fixed to the tent through a canvas loop that is stitched to the tent. A pegging point is usually at a strong point on a tent such as on a seam line.



Flysheet - This is an outer covering layer to the tent. For frame and lightweight tents, the inner tent is a very light, breathable cotton layer, and so needs this waterproof layer to protect it from wind and rain. The flysheet is, therefore, made from a heavier material than the inner.

Groundsheet - This is made of a heavy waterproof material that is put onto the ground inside the tent and, in effect, becomes the floor of the tent. It stops damp and water from getting into the tent from the ground and also provides



protection from any insects that may be lurking in the grass or on the ground. Some tents have these sewn into the inner tent. On many lightweight tents the sewn-in groundsheet may not be of a heavy quality, and may benefit from having a better groundsheet laid underneath it.



Valise - This is the bag that the tent is store in. These vary in size, but it is worth practising folding up the tent before going away, to check that your tent does actually fit inside!

Camping Tips

- Avoid frosty hollows
- Don't camp under trees.
- Point the tent into the wind, that way you're streamlined.
- Use any natural shelter from the wind.
- Check for animal accessibility to campsite!

Safety at Campsites

- No cooking inside tents.
- No smoking inside tents.
- Pitch tents 6 metres apart.
- To use guy lines or not?
- Always check for local hazards.
- Rivers, crags, farm equipment etc.
- Create 'out-of-bounds' areas if necessary.

Care of tents

- Always scrape tent pegs of mud before putting them away - even if they are being put into a separate bag, the mud will dry, fall off and leave the pegs dusty.
- Never let anything (or anyone!) rub against the inside of a tent in the rain as water will seep through the canvas.

- Never walk over the canvas of a tent when pitching or striking it as this will not only potentially damage the canvas but it will also affect the waterproofing.
- A badly erected tent causes damage to the canvas as does careless folding and packing.
- Nylon ropes and guy lines need to be checked for wear and tear caused by friction.
 - Never wear shoes inside a lightweight tent. Particularly with lightweight tents, always store the tent complete with its poles and the correct number of pegs, ready for immediate use.
- It is vital to ensure that any tent is completely dry before storing it. Any dampness will cause the material and guy lines to rot.

NOTES: