

[blowing whistle]

Kids: Lingokids.

Cowie: Did you know this will be my very first time camping?

Elliot: I didn't know that.

Lisa: You're going to love camping, Cowie. It's so fresh and nature-y.

Elliot: Yes, and when you're camping, you get to smell nice things too, like trees.

Cowie: You can smell trees?

Elliot: Yes, some trees smell good, like vanilla.

Adult: It's true. The Ponderosa Pine has bark that smells delightful.

Cowie: Camping is going to be so pretty and nature-y and it will smell good too.

Lisa: Look, we're here.

Cowie: Quiet Camping Nature Weekend, here we come.

Lisa: Oh, this is relaxing.

[loud music]

Cowie: What was that?

Adult: Welcome to Storytime by Lingokids, where we discover fascinating facts about the world around us and the fun of play learning. Let's talk about peaceful and not-so-peaceful experiences outdoors. How can we enjoy nature and make sure others can enjoy it too? Who's in charge of caring for nature? Let's find out.

[loud music]

Elliot: That was a loud sound.

Cowie: Too loud.

Lisa: I'm trying to relax and I can't even hear the birds chirping.

Billy: [mumbles]

Lisa: Oh, except you, Billy.

Elliot: I'm glad that too loud music is gone now.

Cowie: Let's look around this place. There's something green and hanging on the

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trees.

Adult: Good eye, Cowie. That's a kind of lichen.

Elliot: I'm liking it too.

Adult: Elliot, lichen is the name of an organism that grows on rocks and trees.

Kids: Oh.

Adult: That flowy hanging kind is known as old man's beard.

Cowie: It does look like an old man's beard, except green.

Lisa: Let's get a closer look.

Elliot: Oh. Hey, I see little black bugs near that lichen. Ants, and they're walking in a line.

Billy: [mumbles]

Adult: Billy wants to know where they're going.

Elliot: Let's follow them.

Cowie: Yes.

Elliot: They're heading right behind that bush. Let's check what's there.

Cowie: This doesn't seem very nature-y.

Lisa: A sunscreen bottle, ick.

Elliot: A string cheese wrapper, hmm.

Billy: [mumbles]

Adult: Billy found a broken spoon.

Lisa: Yuck. What is that smell?

Cowie: Is it that vanilla-smelling tree?

Adult: Ooh, let's take a sniff all together. Kids at home, will you sniff with us too?

[sniff]

Cowie: Pee-pooey. That's no vanilla tree. That's not a nice smell at all. It's a sticky old tuna can.

Kids: Yuck.

Lisa: This is awful.

Cowie: I don't think I like camping.

Lisa: What should we do? We wanted quiet and nature, but instead, we got a big mess, a loud car, and stinky smells.

Adult: It's unfortunate that other people left such a big mess.

Elliot: I know. Why don't we clean it up?

Lisa: I don't feel like cleaning up someone else's stinky old mess. They don't deserve to have my help. I just feel like setting up my tent and having a relaxing time.

Adult: It's okay that you're mad, Lisa. It really isn't fair that someone else left their mess here.

Lisa: I agree.

Adult: There's actually a different reason you might want to help clean up.

Lisa: For real?

Adult: Yes. No matter who made the mess, it's hurting nature.

Kids: Aww.

Lisa: I do like nature.

Adult: Nature is truly a special thing. This little part of nature needs our help.

Elliot: Wait, I don't get it. I thought nature was big and mighty.

Cowie: Yes, so why does nature need our help? Can't nature take care of itself?

Adult: Nature is great at taking care of itself in lots of ways. For example, nature knows how to turn big old branches, even entire dead trees, into soil with the help of mushrooms.

Kids: Wow.

Adult: It is called decomposition.

Kids: Decomposition?

Adult: It's a big word, and it has a big meaning.

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Elliot: What does it mean?

Adult: Decomposition is when something, like a tree branch, rots so much that over time it becomes something else entirely.

Cowie: Like soil.

Adult: You got it. That's just one example of mighty nature taking care of itself.

Lisa: Nature really is mighty.

Adult: Yes, it is. There are some things that nature isn't good at.

Lisa: Oh.

Adult: Many times it is because of people. When people leave trash on the ground or pollution in the water. Nature might not be able to decompose the trash or pollution. If nature can't solve a problem like that, it often ends up hurting insects, fish, and other animals.

Cowie: Oh no. Let's help nature.

Kids: Yes.

Lisa: I didn't want to clean up the mess because I didn't make the mess. Now I do want to clean it up. I love nature, and nature needs me.

Kids: Let's clean.

Adult: Great. Don't forget to have a grown-up nearby for safe clean-up.

Kids: Okay.

Elliot: Hey, everyone. I just thought of a clean-up song. Want to hear it?

Cowie: Yes.

[music]

Elliot: Cleaning up, cleaning up,

doo-dee-doo-dee-doo

Cleaning up, cleaning up,

We're helping nature too

Adult: Let's all try Elliot's clean-up song. Kids at home, you can sing it too.

Kids: Cleaning up, cleaning up,

doo-dee-doo-dee-doo

Cleaning up, cleaning up

we're helping nature too

Cleaning up, cleaning up

doo-dee-doo-dee-doo

Cleaning up, cleaning up

we're helping nature too

Lisa: Wow, that is so much better. Now we have a perfect spot for our tent.

Cowie: Yes.

Billy: [mumbles]

Adult: Billy says he's a tent expert.

Billy: [mumbles]

Adult: Billy says, poles out.

Cowie: Poles out.

Billy: [mumbles]

Adult: Billy says, unroll the tent.

Lisa: Tent unrolled.

Billy: [mumbles]

Adult: Billy says, attach the poles to the tent.

Lisa: Like this?

Elliot: They connect over here.

Cowie: Here, I'll hold this up.

Kids: We did it.

Cowie: I guess Billy really is a tent expert.

Billy: [mumbles]

Lisa: Let's go inside. Our tent is great.

Kids: Yes.

Cowie: Oh, I like that sound. What is it?

Adult: Kids at home, do what that sound is?

Kids: Rain.

Billy: [mumbles]

Adult: Billy wants to share that he is all done with nature for today. He is going to read.

Cowie: I'm going to try out my sleeping bag.

Elliot: Me too.

Billy: [mumbles]

Adult: Billy says he really likes rainstorms from inside the tent.

Kids: Us too.

Lisa: This is so fun.

Cowie: I love camping.

Adult: Lingokids listeners, thanks for camping with us and helping take care of the outdoors. We learned that picking up trash is a way to respect other campers and help nature. Even though the environment has powerful ways to take care of itself, we learned that it also needs our help sometimes.

[birds chirping]

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