

Picture Day

► The teacher told the class that they would have their pictures taken the next day. Nick did not look forward to picture day. He did not understand why all of the other kids were so excited. Why did they like picture day so much?

Nick took the picture order form home and gave it to Mom. Even she was excited. She filled out the form and put it in an envelope with money. Then she went into Nick's room to find the right outfit. Nick wondered again why everyone got so excited about picture day.

The next day, Nick went to school in his best red shirt and new blue jeans. His hair was combed neatly. His mom had even sprayed his hair with hair spray!

The classroom buzzed with excitement. The other children could not wait to have their picture taken! Nick sat at his desk and felt puzzled. Someone sat down at the desk next to him. Nick saw that it was his friend Cody, and he was smiling. Nick asked Cody why he was so happy. Nick could not believe his ears when Cody told him that the school had a new plan for picture day. This year there would be real animals in the pictures! You could pet the animal while they took the picture. Nick suddenly was looking forward to picture day!

Going Camping

► Some people like to camp. Will Lily be one of them? She is going on her first camping trip. She wonders what it will be like to sleep in a tent. Will she see any wild animals?

Lily, her parents, and her sister drive to the camp site. First, they set up their tent. It is not as easy as Lily thought it would be! There are so many steps to follow. Finally, the tent is ready, and each person puts a sleeping bag inside.

Everyone sits down and eats sack lunches they brought from home. After Lily eats, she throws her trash away in the trash can. Then she has a fantastic idea! She says they should split into two groups and go on hikes. They will draw pictures of things in nature that they see. They will have fifteen minutes to hike and then return to the camp site. Then the two groups can compare all the different things they have seen. The family thinks the plan sounds like fun. They get ready and set off on the two paths.

Just after she leaves the camp site with her dad, Lily sees a deer! It is the first wild animal she has ever seen. Lily hurriedly sketches its picture in her notebook.

Fifteen minutes later, the family meets back at the camp site. They show their drawings to each other. Lily loves seeing what everyone drew. She is already enjoying her first camping trip!

The South Pole

► What do you think of when you hear the words South Pole? Do you see a pole in your mind? There really is a pole at the South Pole. It is red and white like a candy cane. The flags of many countries surround it. Scientists from these countries come to the South Pole. They work together to study the climate.

The scientists have learned that the South Pole is the coldest place on Earth. Even in the summer the temperature is below zero degrees. It is so cold that most scientists only live at the South Pole during the warmer summer months. Very few stay for the harsh winters. No one else lives at the South Pole.

While the scientists are at the South Pole, they see some animals, including penguins and seals. There are many fish in the water, too. In the summer, some whales come to the South Pole. Even the whales leave in the winter. It is just too cold.

Most people are surprised to learn that the South Pole is a dry place. Yes, there is a lot of snow and ice, but little new sleet or snow falls each year. The South Pole is like a frozen desert.

Perhaps you would like to see the South Pole for yourself. If you travel there, you will see a few buildings where the scientists work and live. Of course, you will see the red and white pole, too. Other than that, when you look around, you will only see flat land covered with snow and ice.
