NEWS LESSON

The Library Where You Can Borrow a Tent



BEFORE YOU READ

1 Warm up

Talk about these questions with a partner.

1. What would you borrow if a library lent more than books?
2. Would you try a new hobby if you could borrow all the equipment?
3. Which thing do people buy and hardly ever use?

2 Key words

These words are in the article. Write the letter of the meaning (A to H) in each box.

1	**equipment**	☐	A	the feeling that you can do something well
2	**borrow**	☐	B	the person who is in charge of a place
3	**binoculars**	☐	C	very small animals with six legs, like ants and bees
4	**stargazing**	☐	D	looking at the stars in the night sky
5	**insects**	☐	E	two small tubes that make faraway things look close
6	**attract**	☐	F	take something for a short time and then give it back
7	**director**	☐	G	make someone or something come closer
8	**confidence**	☐	H	the things you need to do an activity

3 Read

Read the article and underline the key words from task 2. The paragraphs are numbered.

A tent, a camera or a pair of binoculars can turn curiosity into a first adventure.

1 Between the books at a new library in Colorado, you can find a tent, binoculars and a camera for watching wildlife. You do not need to buy them. A library card is enough. The Anythink Nature Library opened in August 2026. People can try camping, birdwatching or stargazing without buying all the equipment first.

2 The library is in Thornton, near Denver. It has thousands of books and around 850 sets of equipment that visitors can borrow and bring back. Some contain tools for watching birds or studying insects. Others help people go hiking, look at stars or try camping. The thinking behind this is straightforward: if you want to learn about nature, you should not have to buy everything before getting started.

3 The building itself is part of the experience. It stands beside open land and has gardens, paths and places for children to explore. There are rocks to climb, areas where children can play in mud and plants that attract birds and insects. The library also uses solar panels and an energy-efficient heating and cooling system. Staff organise activities to help visitors pick up new skills.

4 Families who visited soon after it opened described how useful the service was. One mother borrowed a camera that helped her young son photograph insects and flowers during a walk. Another family borrowed books about birds and planned to try a kit for looking at stars. Some visitors said that camping equipment would normally be too expensive to buy for a single weekend.

5 The library's director, Mark Fink, believes that people do not need to travel far into the mountains to enjoy nature. A local garden, a bird outside the window or a short walk can be interesting too. For children growing up in cities, having the chance to touch plants, climb rocks and explore outside may be especially valuable.

6 The nature library is still a public library, so people can read, study and borrow ordinary books. What makes it different is the idea that learning can happen outside as well as inside a building. A tent, a camera or a pair of binoculars might encourage somebody to try something new. Perhaps the library's most useful gift is not the equipment itself, but the confidence to go outdoors and discover what is there.

Sources: The Guardian. Picture: AI illustration.

4 True, false or not given

Circle **T** (true), **F** (false) or **NG** (the article does not say).

1. The Anythink Nature Library is just outside Denver. T F NG
2. The library has solar panels. T F NG
3. Other American states plan to copy the idea. T F NG
4. Visitors must pay to borrow the nature equipment. T F NG
5. Mark Fink says people must travel far into the mountains to enjoy nature. T F NG

5 Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed.

contain	described	encourage	explore	organise	straightforward	valuable

1. A good teacher will _____ you to try new things.
2. Old family photographs are very _____ to the people who keep them.
3. Several visitors _____ the new library as friendly and bright.
4. The box may _____ a torch, a map and some food.
5. The instructions were _____ , so everyone put the tent up in minutes.

6 Verb forms

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. The Anythink Nature Library _____ in August 2026. (OPEN)
2. Visitors _____ the equipment back after a week. (BRING)
3. The building _____ beside open land and has gardens and paths. (STAND)
4. For children _____ up in cities, exploring outside may be valuable. (GROW)
5. One mother borrowed a camera that _____ her young son photograph insects and flowers. (HELP)

7 Language focus: linking words

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed. Look at the idea before and after the gap. Does the second idea give a result, a condition, a contrast or extra emphasis?

because **but** **especially** **if** **so** **unless** **without**

1. Camping equipment is expensive, _____ many families borrow it instead.
2. _____ you want to learn about nature, you should not have to buy everything first.
3. The tent was cheap to borrow, _____ the walk to the campsite was long.
4. Nature is good for everyone, _____ for children who live in cities.
5. You can try camping _____ buying a tent.

SPEAK

8 Talk about it

Discuss in pairs or small groups. Give reasons for your answers.

1. What should every neighbourhood be able to borrow?
2. Would you lend something you loved to a stranger through a library?
3. What would turn a library into a place you wanted to spend time?

9 Role-play: borrow it or buy it?

Work in pairs. Read your card, then have the conversation. Swap roles and do it again.

Student A · the friend who wants to buy

You want to go camping next weekend. You plan to buy a tent. Explain why owning one feels better, and ask your friend about any problems with borrowing.

Student B · the friend who suggests borrowing

You know a library where you can borrow a tent. Persuade your friend to try borrowing first. Answer their worries and say what you'd do together.

Useful phrases

I was thinking of buying a tent.
Why don't we borrow one first?
What if it's already taken?
That's a fair point, but it's cheaper.
I'd rather try it before I spend money.
Okay, let's give it a go.

Afterwards, tell the class: did your friend decide to borrow or to buy, and why?

ANSWER KEY

2 Key words

1 H · 2 F · 3 E · 4 D · 5 C · 6 G · 7 B · 8 A

4 True, false or not given

1 T · 2 T · 3 NG · 4 F · 5 F

5 Vocabulary

1 encourage · 2 valuable · 3 described · 4 contain · 5 straightforward

6 Verb forms

1 opened · 2 brought · 3 stands · 4 growing · 5 helped

7 Language focus

1 so · 2 If · 3 but · 4 especially · 5 without

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