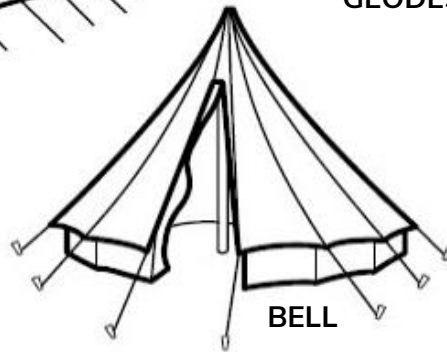
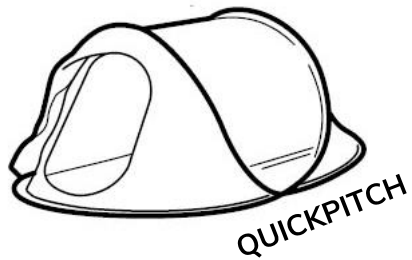
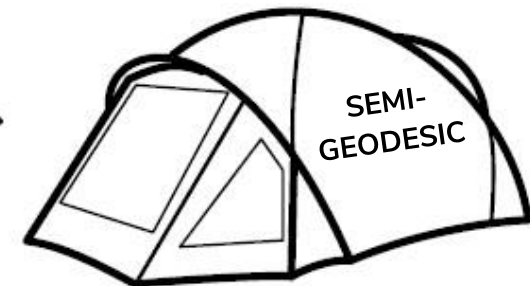
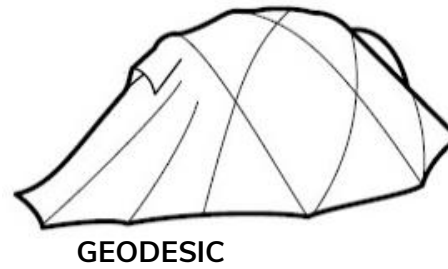
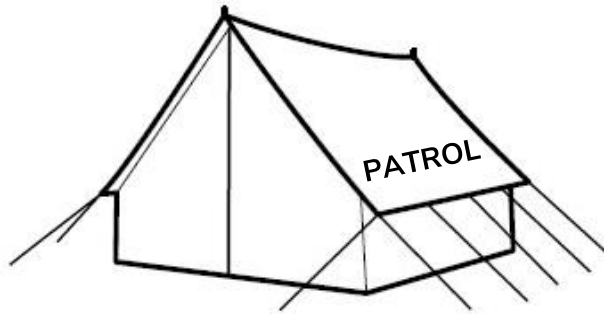
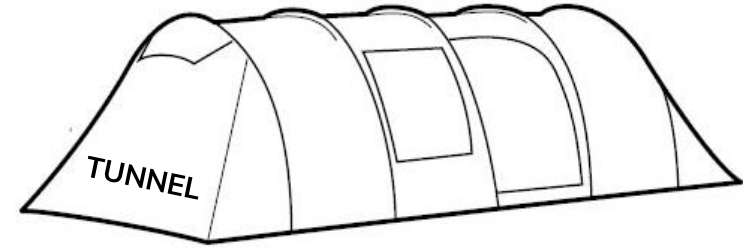
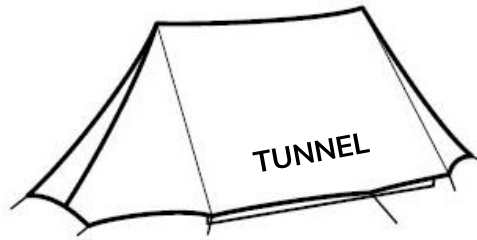
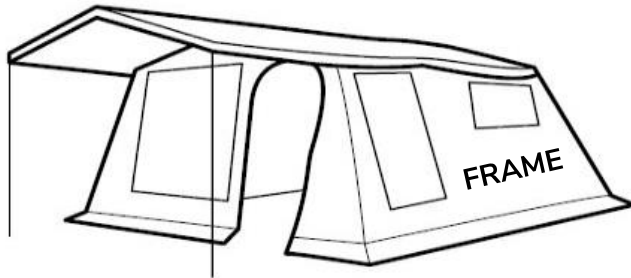


Teach me about tents

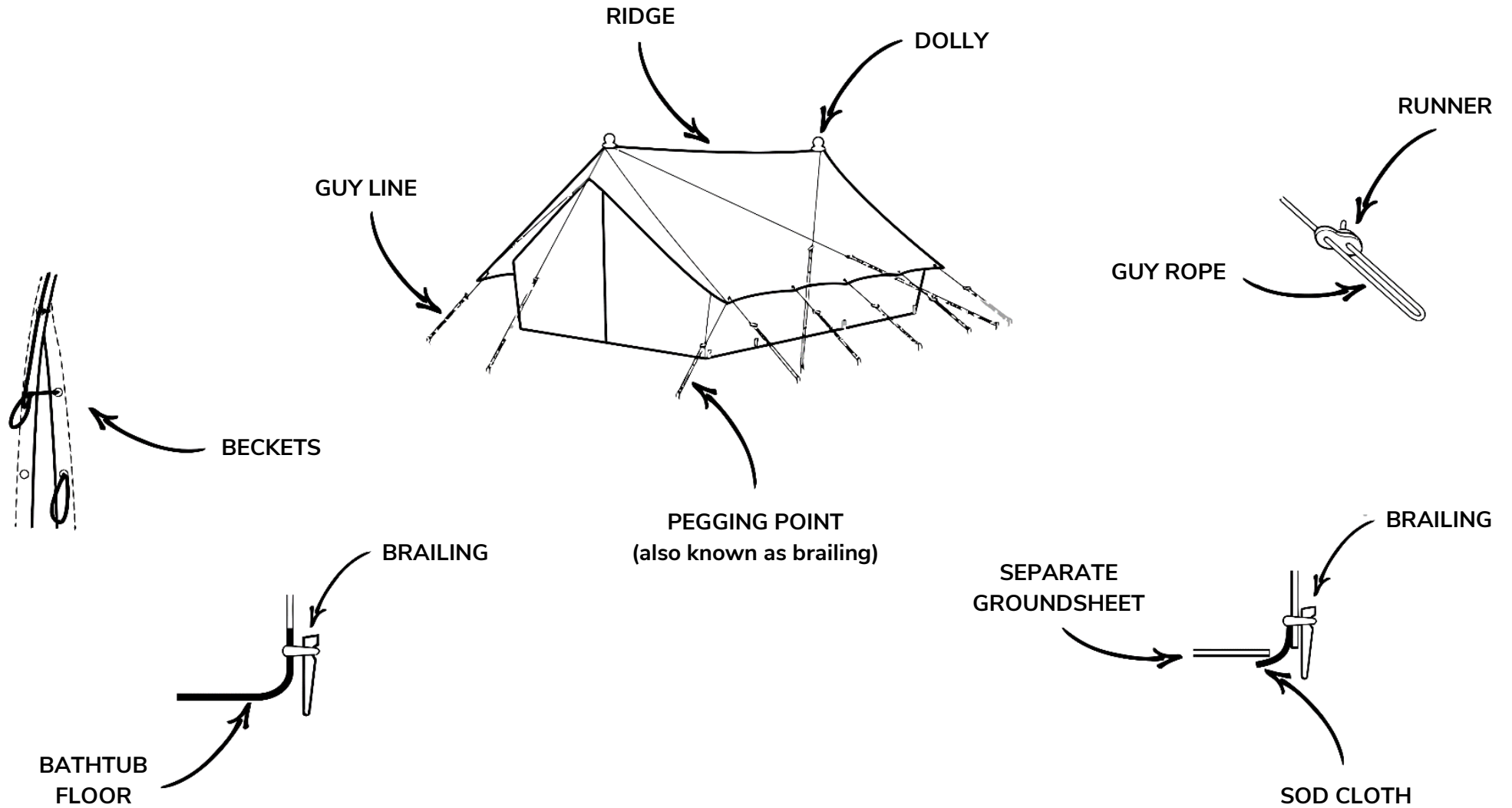
What are the different types of tents?



Scouts



What are the parts that make up a tent?



Tent terminology

- A **bathtub floor** is a sewn-in groundsheet which curves at the sides to prevent leaks.
- **Beckets** are laces used to secure the tent entrance.
- **Dollies** are wooden pole tops which secure the cover.
- A **flysheet** is the waterproof outer layer of the tent.
- A **groundsheet** is the waterproof tent floor.
- **Guy ropes** pull the tent fabric tight to create its shape and hold it in place.
- **Guy-out loops** are loops located along the edges of the tent for securing guy lines.
- An **inner liner** (or canopy) is the inside part of a double-walled tent. The gap between this and the flysheet helps to keep the tent dry.
- **Pegs** are used to secure tents and guy lines.
- **Pegging points** (or brailings) are small loops at the bottom of a tent for pegs.
- The **ridge** is the top of an A-frame tent.
- **Runners** are brackets you attach to guy lines so you can tighten them.
- A **sod cloth** is the material tucked underneath the groundsheet to stop water from getting inside the tent.

How do I pitch a patrol tent?

1. Find a clear, flat area of ground. Put the back of the tent against the wind.
2. Empty the tent bag and lay out the tent parts.
3. Peg out the groundsheet.
4. Open out the tent on the ground, inner side up. Assemble the upright and ridge poles, and feed the ridge pole through the loops attached to the ridge of the tent.
5. Put in four large pegs for the main guy lines. Anchor them lightly to adjust them later.
6. Place the spikes on the upright poles through the holes on the end of the ridge pole and the eyelets in the canvas. Fold the canvas over to form the ridge of the tent.
7. Attach the main guy lines to the anchored pegs and put the dollies over the spike of the uprights. Reposition the pegs as necessary.
8. Stand the tent upright while raising the upright poles to avoid bending the spikes. Let go of the upright poles once the guy lines have been tightened. The tent should now be upright but unsteady. Ensure that the doors of the tent are done up. Peg out the door and corner brailings.
9. Peg out the other guy lines, starting in the middle and working towards the corners. The tent should now be tight. Pitch straight out with one guy line; pitch in line with a seam if you use two. Once adjusted, the runner should be a third of the way up the guy line.
10. Adjust the pegs attached directly to the tent to keep the walls straight.
11. Adjust the main guy lines if needed, checking that the tent poles are upright. Do not move the poles when the guy lines are tight.

How do I strike a patrol tent?

Follow the above stages, in reverse.

- If you have a separate groundsheet, take this up first and turn it over to dry the underneath. Remove grass and dirt before packing away.
- Loosen the guy line and remove tent pegs by hooking the line over the peg notch and pulling upwards. Remove dirt and soil from pegs before packing them away.
- Fold guy lines into thirds, then tie the bundle into an overhand knot to keep it tidy.
- Fold tent poles, starting with centre joints.
- Fold the sheets into a long thin shape then wrap them around the collapsed poles, ready to slot into the bag.
- Try to pack tents when dry. Dry tents prevent mould and mildew.

What should I consider when buying a tent?

- Tents can be **single wall** or **double wall**. A **single wall** tent tends to be lighter and is the best option for summer camping. When camping in poorer weather conditions, a **double wall** tent helps protect you from wind, rain, and snow.
- **Three-season** tents are suitable for spring, summer, and autumn; whilst **four-season** tents can be used all year round. In extreme weather, an **expedition** tent is recommended.
- **Canvas** tents are traditional and hard-wearing; whereas **nylon, polyester, and polycotton** tents are lighter and are often waterproof and resist tears.
- **Sewn-in groundsheets** better defend against insects, but can suffer from condensation. In contrast, **separate groundsheets** don't offer the same level of protection, but do provide good ventilation.
- **Freestanding** tents are easier to move because they keep their shape, whereas **non-freestanding** tents need wires and pegs or they'll fall flat.
- **High-roofed** tents have more headroom, but are less stable in windy conditions.

How can I look after my tent and myself when camping?

- Practise pitching and striking your tent before going camping so that you are confident in getting your tent up and taking it down.
- Avoid pitching your tent on stony ground, under a tree, near a river or pond, or on a walkway. These locations can damage your tent and pose a hazard to your safety.
- Applying seam sealer can help to prevent water from entering your tent at the seams.
- Camping on a tarpaulin will protect your groundsheet, and using a tarpaulin that is a little smaller than your tent will prevent water pooling.
- Close tent flaps before pegging to help keep the tent shape.
- Guy lines are a major trip hazard, so it is useful to mark them with flags or tape. You could also purchase high visibility guy lines.
- Tighten guy lines regularly to avoid sagging, but loosen them a little at night or in wet weather as cold and wet may make your tent shrink.
- Open vents in mild weather to prevent condensation.
- If you are camping for longer than a week, move your tent occasionally to help the grass recover.
- Never use naked flames inside a tent, and always cook outside and away from tents.
- Get to know your campsite, so that you can find toilets and exits quickly and easily.