

Family Cookout

Story By: Andrew Frinkle



It was a hot day and everyone was getting hungry. The weather was nice: just cloudy enough to keep it cool, but just sunny enough to keep it from being cold. The winds were mild, but refreshing. The air was so clean.

Some of the kids were playing with squirt guns and water toys. Others were playing football. They were working up quite an appetite as they laughed and ran and yelled.

The guys were getting the grill ready. They had charcoal and lighter fluid. They spread it out and lit it on fire. They needed to get the grill hot for dinner. A cooler full of meat waited to be cooked. There would be hot dogs, hamburgers, and ribs.

The ladies were setting up the table. They counted out plates, cups, spoons, and forks. They put out salads and side dishes. They had another cooler for drinks. They had to have things ready for when the meat was cooked.

The charcoal was getting hot. The men spread it out in the grill. Soon, the grill was hot, and the meat went on. SIZZLE. The juices snapped and popped and steamed as the meat hit the grill. Everything smelled good, but it was hot, thirsty work.

Some of the ladies handed out plastic cups with soda. There was cola, cream soda, orange soda, and root beer. Kids ran around, slurping it down. Guys sipped some drinks and talked while they cooked. The ladies sat and chatted, drinking some cream soda, too.

Then the meat was finally ready. Hot dogs went into long buns with ketchup, mustard, or onions. Hamburgers went on round buns with lettuce, tomatoes, onions, cheese, and ketchup. Ribs were plopped on plates with sweet and spicy BBQ sauce.

Hungry kids came running when they smelled the food. Hungry adults gathered around the tables. Everyone was talking, laughing, and eating. It was a great time, and the food was wonderful. Dessert was cookies and chocolate cake.

When everyone finished eating, they were so full. They had to clean up, and then they played a game of Frisbee. It was a great cookout!

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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What kind of party are the people having?

- A. Christmas Party B. Cookout Party C. Halloween Party D. Parade Day Party

2. What job do the men have?

- A. to stand around and talk B. to entertain the kids
C. to cook the meat on the grills D. to do the dishes after the meal

3. What job do the women have?

- A. to stand around and talk B. to set the tables up for eating
C. to cook the meat on the grills D. to entertain the kids

4. What kind of meat do they NOT have at the party?

- A. hot dogs B. ribs C. hamburgers D. pork loin

5. Which of these statements about the end of the party is NOT true?

- A. There was no dessert to eat. B. They played Frisbee when they were done eating.
C. They cleaned up after eating. D. The cookout was a great success.

