

SKIT #3

Scene: A group is hiking with their instructor, with student #1 at the front, when they come across a large scat in the trail.

Cast: 1 instructor and 4 students

Note: Stage directions are in parenthesis and italics

Student 1: *(points at scat in the trail)* Oh, my God!

Instructor: Hey everybody!

Instructor: *(singing/chanting)* "It starts with an "S" and ends with a "T." / It comes out of you and it comes out of me./ I know what you're thinking, and you can call it that, but let's be scientific and call it SCAT!!! Check it out you guys! We've got a humongous awesome scat here to explore. Now let me give you the scoop on poop, because I'm a bit of a scatologist. And the first question I have for you is—is it scat of the cat, or doo-doo of the dog?"

Student 2: That's too big to be from a cat. My cat's poop is a lot smaller.

Instructor: I actually meant whether it's from the dog family or the cat family. Your cat is a distant cousin of bigger cats that might live around here: the beautiful bobcat and the magnificent mountain lion.

Student 1: Is it mountain lion scat?

Instructor: No, it's not. Scat from the cat family is segmented and has blunt ends like a tootsie roll. Dog scat has pointier ends. I remember it because dogs have pointier heads, and their scat has pointy ends. Cats have more blunt heads, and their scat has blunt ends.

Student 4: My pug has a blunt head.

Instructor: Well, most dogs anyway. So what kind of dog do you think might live around here?

Student 1: A wolf?

Instructor: *(makes game show buzzer sound--bzzzzt)* Not a wolf. There used to be wolves around here a long time ago. But not anymore. Sorry, try again.

Student 2: A coyote?

Instructor: Yeah! That's absolutely right! Good job! I think this scat was left here by that infamous trickster from native American lore—the coyote. So some people get grossed out by scat, but I think it's totally cool! Look, there are clues in it to tell us what it ate. Judging from the hair and bones in this scat, I can tell that this is a carnivore, and judging from the shape, it's a member of the dog family.

Instructor: And when animals in nature poop, they're not just getting rid of wastes. They're also often saying, "hey, man, this is my territory!" So this is a little present left for us by a coyote, a little billboard along the trail that says, "Keep out of my room!" And you know, right now you all have some of this stuff inside your intestines. Yep, you have future scat of America, FSA, working it's way through your tubes, right now!

(Pause while all students laugh enthusiastically)

Instructor: Your body is taking out the nutrients, and passing the wastes on down the tube. Till eventually... Well, you know. But I hope you won't use yours as advertising like this coyote did.

(Pause while all students laugh enthusiastically)

Instructor: But this scat won't be here forever, because something is going to change it into dirt. Do you know what I'm talking about?

Student 2: The FBI!

Student 1: Fungus, bacteria, and insects!

Instructor: Fungus, Bacteria, and invertebrates! You almost had it, and insects are a type of invertebrate so it's real easy to get those words confused. Yep, the FBI are in there right now decomposing it into dirt and breakin' it down. Everybody say, "break it on down!"

All Students: Break it on down!

Instructor: Everybody say, “dookie into dirt!”

All Students: Dookie into dirt!

Instructor: Everybody say, “exploration!”

All Students: Exploration!

Instructor: Even exploring scat is cool and interesting, isn’t it? Oh hey, look over here. *(Pretends to pick up a piece of scat from the ground, but it’s actually a piece of an energy bar he has squished into a scat shape and secretly pulled from his pocket.)* I found another piece of scat over here. I wonder if this could be coyote scat. This one is harder to tell though. Let me see... *(pauses while sniffing the fake scat)*

All Students: Ewwwww!

Instructor: It sure smells like coyote scat. Hmmm. But there is only one way to tell for sure. *(Instructor stares at it, then takes a bite.)*

ALL Students: *(very loudly and emphatically...)* EWWWWWWWW!

Instructor: Yep, that sure tastes like coyote scat.

Student 1: That’s nasty!

Instructor: Anyone else hungry? Anyone want a bite?

(All students move away from the instructor)

Student 2: Gross!

Student 3: That’s disgusting!

Student 4: I’m about to hurl!

Instructor: OK, now I’m gonna let you in on a little secret. That wasn’t coyote scat I just bit into. It was an energy bar I made into a scat shape. I wasn’t really eating scat. Touching and eating scat can actually be dangerous for humans. Some animals, like beavers, eat their own poop. But I was just faking it.

(Students laugh with relief)

Student 2: Man, you had me!

Instructor: Alright, let’s go explore some more! Here we go!