

Chocolate Chip Picnic Cake

Mix and let stand for 15 minutes:

- 1 cup, chopped dates
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup boiling water

Combine in bowl and mix well:

- 1 cup butter or shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 Tablespoon cocoa powder
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon soda
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt (optional)
- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups flour

Stir in $\frac{1}{2}$ 8 oz. package of chocolate chips and date mixture. Pour into a greased 9"x13" pan. Sprinkle with remaining chips, chopped nuts (if desired) and a little sugar. Bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes. No frosting needed.