

GIVING TREE BOOK EXTENSION ACTIVITIES BY LEAH MARIE DORION

Name of Activity	Grade Levels	Description	Supplies	Curriculum Connections
Maple Leaf Painting or Coloring Activity	K-12	The students will design symbols and creates images on a single Maple Leaf which are influenced or inspired by the story. Talk about Métis and Canadian Identity and discuss the role of Métis people in building Canada especially during the fur trade	Canvas Hardboards 12" by 12", pencils and acrylic paints for the little ones photocopy of a maple leaf template for coloring and drawing	Visual Arts Social Studies
Circle Book of Métis Values	3-12	Make a circle book using each of the twelve values in the story	Colored heavy stock construction paper, Scissors, staple, markers, and pencil crayons	Visual Arts ELA Reflective Writing
Métis Values Wheel Journal Project	3-6	To make a spinning wheel with all the twelve values in the story. They can then spin the wheel each day or week and focus on a particular value in a journal	Colored heavy stock paper, tracing template, rule, scissors, small binder clips, hole punch, markers and pencil crayons	Visual Arts ELA Journal writing
Rewriting the Story from a different perspective	5-12	The students will rewrite the story from a different point of view of another creature from the story. The issues of personification and metaphor will be introduced. Each student will write their own short story and then create a cover illustration in the style of Leah Dorion art	Lined paper, pens, pencils, White 8 by 11 paper for illustration component	Visual Arts ELA Creative Writing
Giving Tree Illustration Replication	3-12	The students will pick an illustration from the book and replicate the image. They will write a self-critique of their work and write an artist statement.	Paints or markers, Heavy stock white paper	Visual Arts
Giving Tree Puppets	1-4	The students will make puppets and props for the performance of a dramatic reenactment of the Giving Tree story.	Markers, pencil crayons, pencils, erasers, heavier stock paper for making the puppets, scissors, large popsicle sticks to glue the puppets	Visual Arts Drama

			to, large sheets of card board to make the support props and tools to cut card board	
Memoir Writing Activity	4-6	The students will write a small memoir about their own personal experience relating to one of the values of the giving tree. They will learn about the concept of reminiscence, intergenerational communication and reflective thinking. They will draw a picture to go with their memoir writing and then put these memory stories on a bulletin board.	Lined paper, pencils, pens, and markers.	ELA Visual Arts
Value Tree Bulletin Board	1-12	The students will make a large giving tree on a bulletin board and every will each contribute their own decorated and designed leaf to the tree.	Brown sheets of paper for the tree. Black background on bulletin board, scissors, markers/pencils, crayons, heavy stock white poster paper for the leaves and stapler	Visual Arts
Giving Tree Character Dolls	9-12	The students will make dolls from the characters in the story	Material, wool, buttons, ribbon, etc.	Home Economics
Family Reminiscences Book	3-12	The students will make a small book with written memories about themselves that they gathered from the family and friends in their life. Each entry will be dated and the student or person sharing will draw a picture above the memory. The memories are to be good, fond, or funny, happy, and shared in good will.	Hilroy exercise book half ruled and half plain	ELA Social Studies Family
Value Poster	K-12	The students are to pick one of the twelve values and make a poster image to go with the value.	Poster paper	Visual Arts

Research on Métis Clothing	5-12	The students are to do research on traditional Métis clothing (Moccasins, sashes, caps, vests, shawls, jackets) and do a small paper on what they learned about clothing.	Note book	Social Studies
Tobacco or medicine Pouch	7-12	Have the students sew a small bag or tobacco pouch in the old Métis style. Talk about Kinickinihk.	Material, ribbons, sewing machines	Social Studies Visual Art Historical Material Culture
Giving Tree Mini Diorama	3-6	The students will make a small shoe box mini diorama of the Giving Tree scene.	Shoe boxes and colored construction paper, popsicle sticks, rocks, moss, sticks etc.	Social Studies Visual Arts
Giving Tree Large 3D model	4-9	The students will collectively make a Giving Tree 3D model out of cardboard.	Cardboard, scissors, heavy duty scissors. Brown paper, Markers	Visual Arts
Giving Tree Poster with all the value leafs	4-6	Each individual student will make their own giving tree with the twelve values listed and decorated on the leaves of their tree poster.	Poster board, markers, construction paper, glue sticks, scissors.	Visual Arts
Tree Observation Activity	3-6	The students will observe and sketch a Maple Tree in nature and they write a small poem that goes along with their sketches	Sketch books, paper, erasers, pencils	Visual Arts ELA Poetry
Giving Tree Mobile	3-6	Make a large group mobile of creatures and symbols from the giving tree story such as bugs, horse shoe symbols, infinity symbol, owls, and butterflies, etc. Every student contributes their creation to the mobile	Thread/yarn or string, hoop, heavy stock, jingle bells, ribbons, scissors, markers.	Visual Arts
Giving Tree Natural Mosaic	2-6	During the fall time collect maple leafs, winged seeds and mosaic them on to heavy poster paper. They can also use beans, popcorn seeds, macaroni to fill in the space on their mosaic creation	Maple leaves and seeds, white glue, heavy stock paper	
Research the Métis traditional use of the Maple Tree	6-9	Have students do a small research report about the traditional Métis use of the Maple Tree	Library and internet	Social Studies Science

Infinity Symbol Painting	6-12	The students will paint symbols and create their own decorative elements on a large Métis Infinity symbol. They will talk about the Métis flag.	Paints, canvas, and pencils	Visual Art
Giving Tree Exchange Basket	K-3	Bring a large basket to class and teach the students about the concept of reciprocity connected to the story. The give and take teachings. For a period of time the students can exchange items from the basket	The basket Rule Poster	Drama Social Studies
Red River Cart Popsicle Stick Model	5-9	The students will make a mini Red River cart model with popsicle sticks. Introduce the students to teachings about traditional Métis transportation.	Sticks, leather strips, glue	Visual Art Social Studies
Make Talking Sticks	5-9	Have the students paint and decorate their own talking sticks. If in season have them collect their own stick from nature. Talk about respectful communication and intergenerational communication. Discover the protocols and procedures of using a traditional talking stick.	Sticks, paint, ribbons, leather, jingle bells	Visual Art Social Studies
Community of Trees Activity	4-6	Have the students pick their favourite tree and do research on the tree. They must do a small sketch of the tree and label the parts of the tree with the detail about the bark, leaves, seeds, etc. Have them write a small paragraph about why they like the tree they selected.	Library and internet access	Science Reflective Writing
Traditional Métis Games	4-6	Research some traditional Métis games that both children and adults played and play them in class time	Library and internet access	Physical Education Social Studies
Story Sack	K-12	Create a bag with different items collected by the students and have a fun time playing story telling games and making up stories	Found Objects Story bag	Social Studies

Felt Story Board	K-Family Literacy	Make a felt board with the characters and images reflecting the setting of the story. Retell the story by sticking the items on the felt board as the story is told	Felt board Velcro grip Felt characters	ELA
Leah Dorion Art Critique of one of her Works	6-12	Pick a painting by Leah Dorion and do an art critique of one her the paintings	www.leahdorion.com website	Visual Art
Classroom Group Illustration Mural	5-12	Pick an illustration from the Giving Tree Book and blow up to 11" by 17" Paper and draw a grid and assign blocks to students to work on their own section of collective mural. Use heavier stock paper and a size that will fit your space for the mural.	Heavy stock paper Paints	Visual Art Team Work