

Sugaring Off in Maple Orchard

By Grandma Moses

1-hour lesson plan

- I. Ask children about their favorite winter activities...alone & with friends/family, indoors and out. Talk about feelings during this season. **(5 minutes)**

- II. Read Robert Frost's "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening." There is a new illustrated version by Susan Jeffers, which is truly beautiful. **(15 minutes)**

- III. Introduce painting: Sugaring Off, 1955. **(15 minutes)**
 - a. Discuss the Elements of Art including Medium (oil painting vs. watercolor), Colors, Shapes, Textures (brush strokes), Utilization of Space, Forms Values & Lines.
 - b. The title of the painting is "Sugaring Off." Discuss that in New England, "Sugaring Off" was a big, crazy party in the woods attended by farmers and villagers celebrating the production of the first batch of liquid that comes from the maple trees and is used to make syrup.
 - c. Maple Syrup production: Maple trees are tapped by chopping a slanted notch into the maple bark, driving a gouge into the tree beneath the notch. Then a shingle is inserted. The clear sap drips from the shingle into a bucket from which it is collected and heated until it becomes dark, sweet syrup. Show 2 minute DVD: *Web Videos on Vermont: Collecting Maple Syrup Using Traditional Method.*
 - d. **Key points: Moses' art was primitive art—no formal training; art tells a story; paint about things you know.**

- IV. Introduce the artist (see bio attached) and show her picture. **(5 minutes)**

- V. Have children “build a story” aloud about what’s happening in the painting (**art tells a story...**) (**5 minutes**)
 - a. Call on our first volunteer to start the story with the first sentence.
 - b. Call on next volunteer to build on first sentence and ADD a sentence of their own.
 - c. Art Parent can add sentence to re-direct story or move to conclusion

- VI. Serve snack – Lego mini waffles served with real maple syrup. **MUST PRE-APPROVE THIS WITH TEACHER. (15 minutes)**
AND/OR
- VII. Craft Project – Snow globes (see attached) (**15 minutes**)

- VIII. Wrap up Exercise
 - a. Name of the Masterpiece
 - b. Name of the artist
 - c. One nifty fact

- IX. Leave behind materials