

Giving Thanks

A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

Themes: American Indian Culture, Environment, Family Traditions

Grade Level: K to 5th grade

Book Brief: An American Indian celebration of Mother Earth.

Author: Chief Jake Swamp

Illustrator: Erwin Printup, Jr.



TIME TO READ!

Before reading: Tell kids this book is a message of thanks to Earth for all that it provides for us. The author uses the term “Mother Earth,” an example of personification, to describe the way Earth takes care of all our needs.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

GIVING THANKS EARTH DISPLAY (AGES 5-12)

Materials: bulletin board paper, markers

Cut two half circles from paper. Tape together to form Earth shape. Have kids brainstorm about what they are thankful for. Let 4-5 kids work at a time illustrating or listing their thoughts on the Earth cutout.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE! (AGES 5-12)

Materials: large boxes, paint, brushes

Have kids create their own recycling boxes. Let small groups design a logo for their container and decide what it will hold (paper, plastic, etc.). Paint the logo on the box. Once it's dry, place the box in a common area to encourage recycling.



COMMUNITY CENTER CLEAN UP! (AGES 5-12)

Organize a monthly clean up day at your community center, if appropriate. Split kids into teams to collect loose trash around the grounds. See how much trash each team can collect.

Create a graph to show how many bags (grocery size) were filled. Add to the graph each month with a goal of decreasing the amount of trash. Remember to give kids plastic gloves or other protection.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURE

Powwow's Coming, Linda Boyden (2007), *A Boy Called Slow*, Joseph Bruchac (1998), *Coyote Places the Stars*, Harriet Peck Taylor (1997), *Saltypie*, Tim Tingle (2010), *Home to Medicine Mountain*, Chiori Santiago (2002).

TECHNOLOGY LINK FOR KIDS

www.rif.org/kids



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