

## November Is Native American Heritage Month

With a long history, rich culture, and more than 300 spoken languages, Native American traditions have been passed down through the centuries. Make the concept of Native American Heritage Month meaningful to children by inviting a speaker from your community to talk with children about traditions of local tribes and to share crafts, artwork, traditional clothing, and other artifacts. Further enliven the discovery of the Native American culture with a field trip to a local museum.



### Home, Sweet Home

(taken from [Celebrate America](#))

You'd call it a wigwam if you live in the east or near the Great Lakes. You'd call it a wickiup (WICK-ee-up) if you were a desert or plains dweller. These English words come from words in two Native American languages. By any name, this structure is a home when you're on the go.

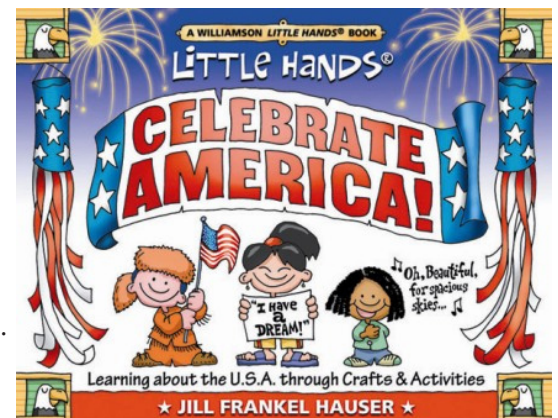
How would you make it? First saplings (young trees) were bent into a dome-shaped frame. The frame was then covered with soil, small branches, animal hides, grass mats, bark, and other natural materials.

#### Make a Mini Wigwam

Materials and Preparations:

- 2 small plastic bowls
- Plastic bag or plastic wrap
- 1 cup fine dirt
- ½ cup flour
- Grass, small leaves, and twigs
- Scraps of brown paper bag

1. Wrap one bowl in the plastic bag/plastic wrap (to keep the mud from sticking). Set it upside down.
2. In the other bowl, mix the dirt with the flour. Add enough water so that it has a clay-like texture. Press this mud mixture onto the small bowl covered in plastic. Be sure to leave an opening to get inside and a hole in the roof for smoke from the cooking fire to escape.
3. Press the grass, small leaves, and twigs into the mud.
4. Wet the scraps of brown paper bag. Press them into the mud to look like animal hides.
5. When the house is completely dry, carefully lift it off the bowl.



## Veteran's Day – November 11, 2010

November 11 is a day to honor veterans who have given so much to protect our country. A veteran is someone who has served in the military. Show children pictures of members of the military in uniform (United States Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force). Invite children to talk about family members who have served or currently serve in the military.

## Scent Cups

(taken from [Curriculum for Threes, Sensational Senses](#))

### Materials and Preparations:

- Scent cups (soak cotton balls with assorted extracts such as orange, peppermint, vanilla, or other safe scents; place cotton balls inside sanitized yogurt cups or film canisters with lids and punch holes in the lids; make 2 cups for each scent; put matching stickers on the bottom of each pair of cups)
- Index cards with symbols/pictures that match the scent cups

### Learning Experiences:

- Show cards with pictures or symbols that relate to each of the cups to children. Can they match cups to cards just by smelling?
- Encourage children to smell each scent cup and choose a picture card to match. What body part do they use when they smell?

**Extension:** Give children an opportunity to think of additional scents to put in the cups. What picture/symbol/drawing could they put on the cards to represent those scents?

## Create Thankful Collages

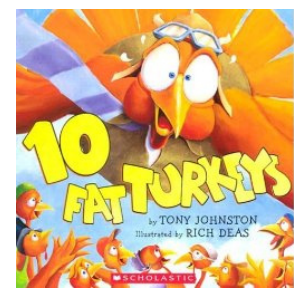
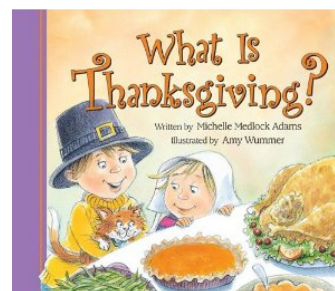
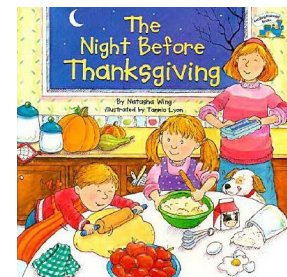
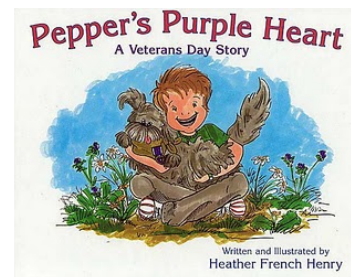
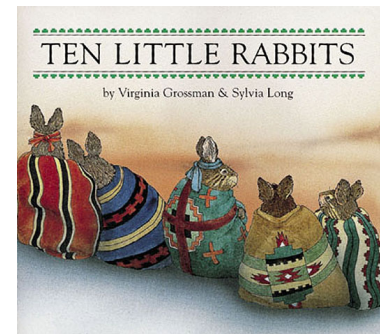
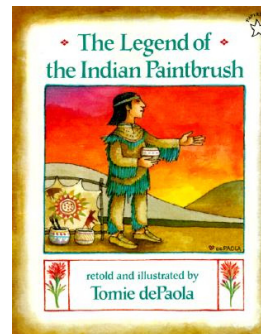
### Materials and Preparations:

- Magazines and newspapers
- Construction paper, scissors, and glue
- Crayons/markers

### Learning Experiences:

- Encourage children to think of things at home and school they are thankful for (family members, friends, pets, favorite toy/blanket, etc.)
- Invite children to cut or tear out images of the things they are thankful for from magazines and glue them to a piece of construction paper.
- Ask children to tell you what they are thankful for and write their words below the image or on the back of the paper.

## Books to Share



*The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush* by Tomie dePaola

*Ten Little Rabbits* by Virginia Grossman & Sylvia Long

*Pepper's Purple Heart: A Veteran's Day Story* by Heather French Henry

*The Night Before Thanksgiving* by Natasha Wing

*What Is Thanksgiving?* by Michelle Medlock Adams

*10 Fat Turkeys* by Tony Johnston