



## Native American Heritage Month



November is Native American Heritage Month. One way to make this concept meaningful to children is to invite a speaker from your community to talk with children about traditions of local tribes and share crafts, artwork, traditional clothing, and other artifacts. With a long history, rich culture, and more than 300 spoken languages, Native American traditions have been passed down through the centuries.



## Rainsticks

**Make rainsticks and enjoy the sounds of nature.**

### Materials and Preparations:

- Wrapping paper or paper-towel rolls with dots to indicate where to place golf tees
- Golf tees
- Paper circles, tape, and beans or rice
- Art materials (markers, crayons, paint, tissue paper, feathers, glue, etc.)

### Learning Experiences:

- Insert golf tees into the tube and secure the flat side of the tee to the tube with tape or glue.
- Place materials on a table. Children can attach a paper circle to one end of the tube and secure with tape.
- Add beans or rice to the tube as well as paper circle to the open end. Secure the paper circle with tape.
- Invite children to use the art materials to decorate their rainsticks.
- Children can carefully turn their rainsticks, listening to the sound they make. What happens when they turn them slowly? quickly? How does the sound change?

## Veteran's Day – November 11, 2009

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.

### Design a Stamp

#### Materials and Preparations:

- Images of stamps designed for different occasions
- Art materials (construction paper, tissue paper, markers, crayons, glue, glitter, etc.)

#### Learning Experiences:

- Visit the United States Postal Service Web site ([www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com)) to obtain images of a variety of stamps that have been designed for different occasions.
- Explain to children that Veteran's Day celebrates those who have served to protect the United States.
- Encourage children to work together in small groups to design their own stamp to honor Veteran's Day.
- Hang the stamps around the room to showcase children's designs.

# classroom tips

To create a welcoming environment, keep these tips in mind:

- Make sure your classroom environment reflects things often found in a child's world (their families, homes, pets, etc.)
- Look to the children's family cultures and those within your local community and make them a part of the environment.
- Use classroom displays that illustrate children's thoughts and actions.



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## Make Thankful Pictures

An opportunity to talk with children about being thankful.

### Materials and Preparations:

- Paper
- Markers and crayons
- Magazines
- Glue

### Learning Experiences:

- Invite children to share some things for which they are thankful (i.e., families, friends, books, pets, etc.)
- As children share, print their exact words on a sheet of paper.
- Encourage children to decorate their dictation by gluing pictures from magazines to the paper or drawing a picture.

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## Books to Share

*Thanksgiving Is for Giving Thanks* by Margaret Sutherland

*Too Many Pumpkins* by Linda White

*Spot's Thanksgiving* by Eric Hill

*Pepper's Purple Heart* by Heather French Henry

*Jingle Dancer* by Cynthia Leitich Smith

