

Lesson Plan - Maple Syrup - A Canadian Tradition

Grade Level: Grade Two

Learning Objectives:

1. To explore the importance of the word "Maple" to Canadians
2. To learn about the tradition of maple syrup production for Canadians
3. To explore their own family traditions

Expectations: Heritage and Citizenship: Traditions and Celebrations

- describe family history and traditions as they relate to being Canadian
- share family traditions with members of the class
- identify ways in which heritage and traditions are passed on

Materials:

Flip chart paper

The book, "A Day at the Sugar Bush"

Items with the maple leaf on it

Procedure/activities:

1. Separate the students into groups of about four, depending on the class size
2. Give them each a piece of paper with the word "Maple" on it
3. Ask them what they think of when they see that word. Have them brainstorm ideas with their group. (Brainstorming ideas can include; maple tree, maple leaf, Maple Leafs hockey team, Canada's flag, maple candy, maple syrup). Produce some examples of items with the maple leaf on it to give them ideas
4. After their brainstorming ideas are shared and recorded on the chalkboard or flip chart focus on maple syrup and maple tree. Ask the students if maple syrup and the maple tree play a part in Canadian traditions? Is the production of maple syrup a Canadian tradition (i.e. going to the maple syrup farm each spring)? Make sure that the students realize maple syrup is a Canadian tradition.
5. Read the book; A Day at the Sugar Bush by Megan Faulkner and Wally Randall
6. Ask the student to think about something that is important to their family and that might be a family tradition they have
7. In their journals or on a separate sheet of paper, have them write about their family tradition and draw a picture

Assessment:

- Final product in journal
- Contribution to classroom discussion

Extension Activities:

- Present their family traditions to the class.
- Plan a field trip to a nearby sugar bush