



American MASTERS

Grandma Moses: American Folk Artist



What We Learned:

- Grandma Moses was born in 1860 in Greenwich, New York as Anna Mary Robertson.
- She was a self-taught artist.
- Her folk-art reflected traditions and culture from her childhood memories and her time as a farm wife and mother.
- She started painting her primitive art in her 70s and continued painting until her death at 101 years old.

Art Activity: Primitive Winter Scene

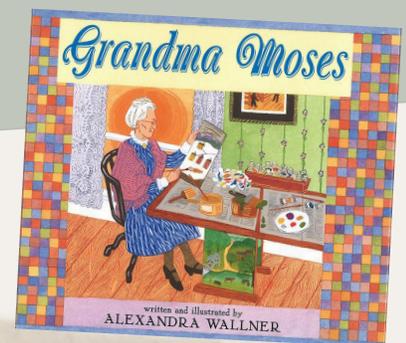
Grandma Moses painted scenes from every season. Since she was from New York, many of her paintings are of winter. Grandma Moses wasn't too concerned about perspective or proportion for her paintings. However, many of her paintings have scenes with overlapping hills and perspective included in her design. The students painted a snowy background. Then, using the principle of perspective they placed the houses and details within their winter scene.



Book Nook

Grandma Moses
By Alexandra Wallner

Or watch the Read Aloud book with pictures here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rf3Abv5xxKA>



For Parents:

Our lesson on Grandma Moses began with her early childhood. She was born on a farm in Greenwich, New York. Her given name was Anna Mary Robertson. Anna only went to school until the age of 12 then worked as hired domestic help until she married Thomas Moses at the age of 27. They ran a farm in Virginia and reared five children. Eventually the family moved back to New York to farm. Her husband died when she was 67. She busied herself with embroidery in her grief, but when arthritis kept her from holding the needles she turned to painting. Although she didn't start painting until she was in her 70s, she had a long career and painted until she passed away at the age of 101. Grandma Moses is considered a primitive painter of folk art. She painted depictions of American country life, culture and traditions.

Please note: As M&G's host location for *Homeschool Days*, Mack Library will feature books each month for parents to reference as resources. We hope these additional features will further support your teaching at home.

Connections at Home: Folk Art Landscapes

MATERIALS:

- White Drawing Paper
- Black Sharpies
- Pencils
- Ruler
- Crayons
- Watercolors, water container and paintbrush

DIRECTIONS:

Step One: Using a pencil, create at least 15 diagonal lines (use a ruler for clean, sharp lines). Add various patterns in the shapes created by the lines. Next add trees, sun or moon, clouds and barns to the rest of the landscape.

Step Two: Use a sharpie and retrace over EVERYTHING. Once the black lines are complete use crayons to add color in just the shapes not the backgrounds.

Step Three: Paint the background areas with watercolor paints.



An Introduction to Sewing

Grandma Moses did needlework using worsted yarn. She gave most of these pieces away. Because of her arthritis she had to quit her embroidery, and she started painting.

Follow this link to try a simple needlework project of your own.: https://www.inspirethemom.com/sewing-preschoolers/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=pinterest&utm_campaign=tailwind_tribes&utm_content=tribes&utm_term=487302970_17288040_491762



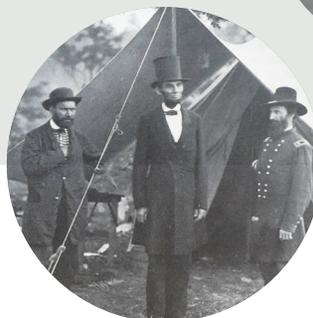
Grandma Moses Timeline

Grandma Moses lived to be 101 years old! A lot of changes and innovation happened during her lifetime. Put these events in order by numbering them from 1 to 6. If you need help, ask your parents for permission to use the internet.

1860: Birth of Grandma Moses

- _____ Incandescent Light Bulb
- _____ Great Depression
- _____ World War I
- _____ World War II
- _____ Model T Invented
- _____ Civil War

1961: Death of Grandma Moses



Additional Resources

To learn more about Grandma Moses, click on the links below:

- A short video for children about Grandma Moses:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lp8PChMQEbk&t=17s>

- Bennington Museum has the largest collection in the world of Grandma Moses's paintings. See why at this link <https://benningtonmuseum.org/portfolio-items/grandma-moses/>

- The National Museum of Women in the Arts gives a nice summary of Grandma Moses's life and focuses specifically on her painting, *Calhoun*:

<https://nmwa.org/art/artists/grandma-moses-anna-mary-robertson-moses/>

- Check this link to see the Grandma Moses paintings owned by the Smithsonian Museum of Art:

<https://americanart.si.edu/artist/grandma-moses-5826>

Due to the changing nature of web resources, M&G strongly urges you as the parent to preview these sites before your child accesses them. The fact that these sites are available on this handout does not imply that M&G endorses their content from the standpoint of morals, philosophy, theology, or scientific hypotheses.

Grandma Moses Timeline Answers: 2 Incan-
descent lightbulb, 5 Great Depression, 4 World
War I, 6 World War II, 3 Model T invented,
and 1 Civil War.

M&G Educational Mission:

Through tours, events, and publications, the Museum & Gallery seeks to partner with educators in fulfilling all of the National Visual Arts Content Standards. By integrating art into the core curriculum, M&G's goals are to teach children to value the arts, to communicate through the arts, to become creative problem solvers through the inclusion of STEAM-related concepts and fully-developed STEAM units, to understand history and culture in light of the arts, to improve literary interest and understanding through visual storytelling, to critique the arts, and to develop an aesthetic awareness of the arts. Through fulfilling the mission, M&G is able to help develop citizens who have the ability to think, feel, and understand the world in which they live.

