



Middle School *Homeschool Days*: February 2024

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.



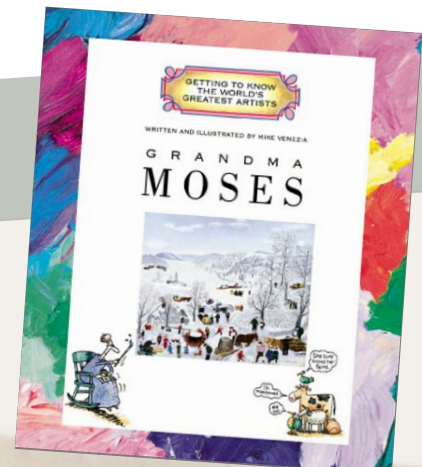
Art Activity: Perspective Snow Scene



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. Using oil pastels, the students drew their scene against a winter background.

Book Nook

Grandma Moses
By Mike Venezia



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.

Winter Folk Art Trees

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Watercolor paper or regular all-purpose paper
- Black Sharpie (or waterproof) marker
- Medium paintbrush
- Watercolor paints

Drawing the trees...

- Draw tree trunks with a Sharpie or waterproof black marker. Start near the top of the paper and draw the trunk to the bottom of the paper.
- Add branches, shapes and lines.

Painting the trees...

- Use watercolor paints to create a halo of color around the tree branches.

Painting the background...

- Select a color that is different from any of the tree colors and apply around the tree shapes.

For help and examples, follow this short tutorial for visual instruction:

<https://www.deepspaceparkle.com/winter-folk-art-trees/>



Four Seasons Activities

Grandma Moses painted scenes from every season. She also enjoyed painting holiday scenes. Follow this link to try a variety of activities featuring all four of the seasons:

<https://thecraftingchicks.com/four-seasons-activities/>



Additional Resources

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

- An informative video on the life of 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/>

- A comprehensive article on Grandma Moses:

Hyperlink: <https://www.theartstory.org/artist/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.

Word Search Puzzle: *Grandma Moses*

Find and circle the following words in the puzzle:

FIREBOARD

FLAT IMAGES

GRANDMA MOSES

HOUSEPAINT

JOY OF LIFE

LACK OF SHADOWS

NEW YORK

PAINTED ON CARDBOARD

SUGARING OFF

R	K	Z	R	G	Y	B	S	T	T	U	D	I	T	I
S	N	B	A	N	M	V	B	Q	N	P	R	F	S	V
D	U	L	S	N	U	Q	A	J	I	D	A	W	M	G
E	U	G	G	R	A	N	D	M	A	M	O	S	E	S
I	F	I	A	T	M	Y	R	N	E	D	B	G	Y	K
G	P	I	O	R	P	R	G	W	A	Y	D	A	F	R
M	W	H	L	K	I	O	C	H	G	U	R	L	M	O
H	J	R	B	F	K	N	S	P	E	H	A	Y	Q	Y
O	L	J	F	O	O	F	G	S	U	T	C	N	A	W
U	G	T	C	A	O	Y	I	O	I	N	N	A	W	E
S	I	Z	M	K	J	F	O	M	F	I	O	M	H	N
E	B	L	C	K	Y	Z	A	J	C	F	D	K	J	Z
P	D	A	L	B	U	G	J	C	F	A	E	Q	L	C
A	L	B	V	J	E	F	K	B	Y	R	T	R	K	U
I	Z	Q	I	S	U	R	M	A	C	N	N	N	H	U
N	D	R	A	O	B	E	R	I	F	W	I	C	T	V
T	R	I	O	C	G	X	G	D	W	W	A	D	K	M
F	T	Q	T	S	N	Y	M	U	Q	V	P	E	V	M

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.

