

Grey Roots @ home

Explore traditions with Grey Roots!

Welcome to our special traditions @ home (or school) activities. These activities complement the new *Dressed for Christmas* videos on our website where you can visit the 1853 log cabin, 1886 log house and 1925 farm house. Through the series we hope you learn a bit about Christmas and wintertime traditions. Traditions fuel our experiences and we hope you and your family enjoy celebrating your traditions, whatever they are.

This programming is linked to grade two curriculum but also touches on other grades. These activities are great for all learners, just adjust and have fun!

Books for Children

Matas, C., Trottier, M., Lawson, J., Ellis, S., Nodelman, P., Little, J., . . . Forchuk Skrypuch, M. (2009). *A Christmas to remember: Tales of comfort and joy*. Toronto: Scholastic Canada.

Activity: Home for the Holidays

Background Information for Teachers & Parents

The *Dressed for Christmas* videos show specific Christmas traditions in the three different time periods of Moreston Heritage Village:

- ★ In 1853, we look at an Irish immigrant family and the ways they adapted their traditions to their new home.
- ★ In 1886, a second-generation Scottish-Canadian family shares their traditions with shortbread and cards.
- ★ In 1925, a family with original ties to Germany shares their Christmas tree, gift shopping options and stollen.

The videos are Christmas specific as per historic census data. Most residents in those time periods were of a Christian-based faith. The makeup of Grey is very different now but we can academically look at our past and see how traditions changed during immigration and for personal reasons. Many of the questions asked during the videos are not Christmas-specific and allow people of multiple faiths and experiences to make connections.

The videos were filmed by staff and volunteers who were socially distanced and masked. Public health guidelines were followed. Masks were only removed by those on-camera during filming.



What you need:

- ★ Technology to access and show the videos

Activity

Introduce the videos to students.

Share videos in chronological sequence. Each video asks questions related to the information being shared. You are welcome to pause the videos at each question for class participation and engagement.

Activity Centre

Encourage further inquiry into celebrations or traditions from your community. Connect with local community members digitally to invite them to share the tradition or celebration details with your students.

Do your students have more questions? Connect with Grey Roots! There is a fee for live discussion through Teams or Zoom. Contact education @ greyroots.com for more information.

Assessment Suggestions

Assess student participation in discussion. The videos will help lay a foundation of understanding for the other activities in the package.

Curriculum

Grade 2: A1.3 compare some of the past and present traditions and celebrations of different ethnocultural groups in their local community, and identify some of the main reasons for the change (e.g., influenced by practices around Christmas, some Jewish families now give presents at Hanukkah; when some of their spiritual or cultural traditions were outlawed, First Nations people developed different practices, but now some traditional practices are returning)

