



Métis Festive Traditions

Christmas Mittens

Aen shinihkatayk (title):

Métis Christmas Mittens

Wiihtamakayhk kaykwy kaa kishkayhtamihk (explaining what is being learned/overview):

The lesson focuses on teaching children about the Métis culture through the story “Métis Christmas Mittens,” written and illustrated by Leah Marie Dorion, a Métis woman from Saskatchewan. Leah’s artwork celebrates the strength and resilience of Métis women and families. Children will learn about the significance of community in Métis traditions and create their own felt mittens, fostering an appreciation for cultural diversity. This activity also supports various developmental areas, including emotional, social, cognitive, and physical growth.

L’aanii d’ikol

(year of school/grade):

Preschool/Pre-kindergarten

Kaykwy kaa kishkayhtamihk

(what is being learned/subject):

Métis Christmas Traditions

Ispray kaa piikishkwatamihk

(what we’re talking about):

Cultural Traditions

Manaachihitoyaahk

(key points to emphasize):

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Discuss the importance of community in Métis culture.

CREATIVE EXPRESSION

Encourage children to express their creativity while decorating their mittens with various colours and designs.

SOCIAL INTERACTION

Emphasize working together and sharing materials to promote teamwork and cooperation.

Taanishi aen tipahamihk

(how it will be measured):

- **Intellectual Development:** Understanding different cultures and traditions
- **Social-Emotional Development:** Sharing, cooperation, and expressing feelings through art
- **Cognitive Development:** Following directions and problem-solving during the mitten-making process
- **Physical Development:** Engaging in hands-on activities that improve fine motor skills

Gashkihtaan (I can do it):

- I can learn about other cultures
- I can make felt mittens
- I can express cultural understanding through art



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Niikaan lii kesyoon

Focus questions:

1. What do you think the mittens represent in this story?
2. What is a special tradition your family has during the holidays?
3. What colours and designs will you choose for your mittens, and why?
4. How can we share and celebrate our different cultural traditions?

Taanishi aen ishi ooshihtaahk

How to do it:

1. SPECIFICALLY WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT (10 MINUTES)

Brainstorm as a group: What do we know about Christmas?

- Encourage children to share any experiences they may have with cultural traditions and/or the holidays.

2. INTRODUCTION (10 MINUTES)

- Discuss the story's main points, focusing on community and traditions.
- Introduce the author, Leah Marie Dorion, explaining her background as a Métis woman from Saskatchewan and how her artwork celebrates Métis strength and resilience.
- Read "*Métis Christmas Mittens*" aloud to the class

3. DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

- Engage children in a discussion about their thoughts on the story
- Ask questions about their own experiences with the holidays

4. ACTIVITY (15 MINUTES)

Preparation:

- Distribute felt sheets and templates

Mitten Making:

- Assist children in tracing and cutting out mitten shapes (**Appendix 2**)
- Allow them to glue two pieces together to create a stuffed mitten effect

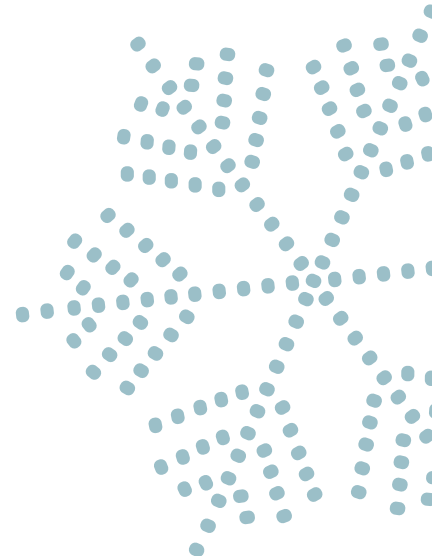
Decorating:

- Provide various decorating materials (markers, yarn, beads, etc.)
- Encourage children to design their mittens uniquely while discussing their choices

Lii zafayr poor chi ooshitaahk ooma

(things needed to do this/ materials needed):

- Felt sheets (various colours)
- Scissors
- Hot glue/fabric glue/glue sticks
- Markers, crayons, or fabric paints
- Pom poms, buttons, loose parts
- Yarn or embroidery thread (for decoration)
- Templates of mitten shapes





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5. CLOSING (10–15 MINUTES)

- Have children share their mittens and explain their decoration choices to the group
- Discuss what they learned about Métis culture through the story and the activity

6. ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Consider inviting parents or community members from the Métis culture to participate in the discussion or activity to further enrich the experience
- Ensure that all materials are safe and appropriate for preschool children

Appendix 1:

Book Reference

Métis Christmas Mittens by Leah Marie Dorion

Links to the Book:

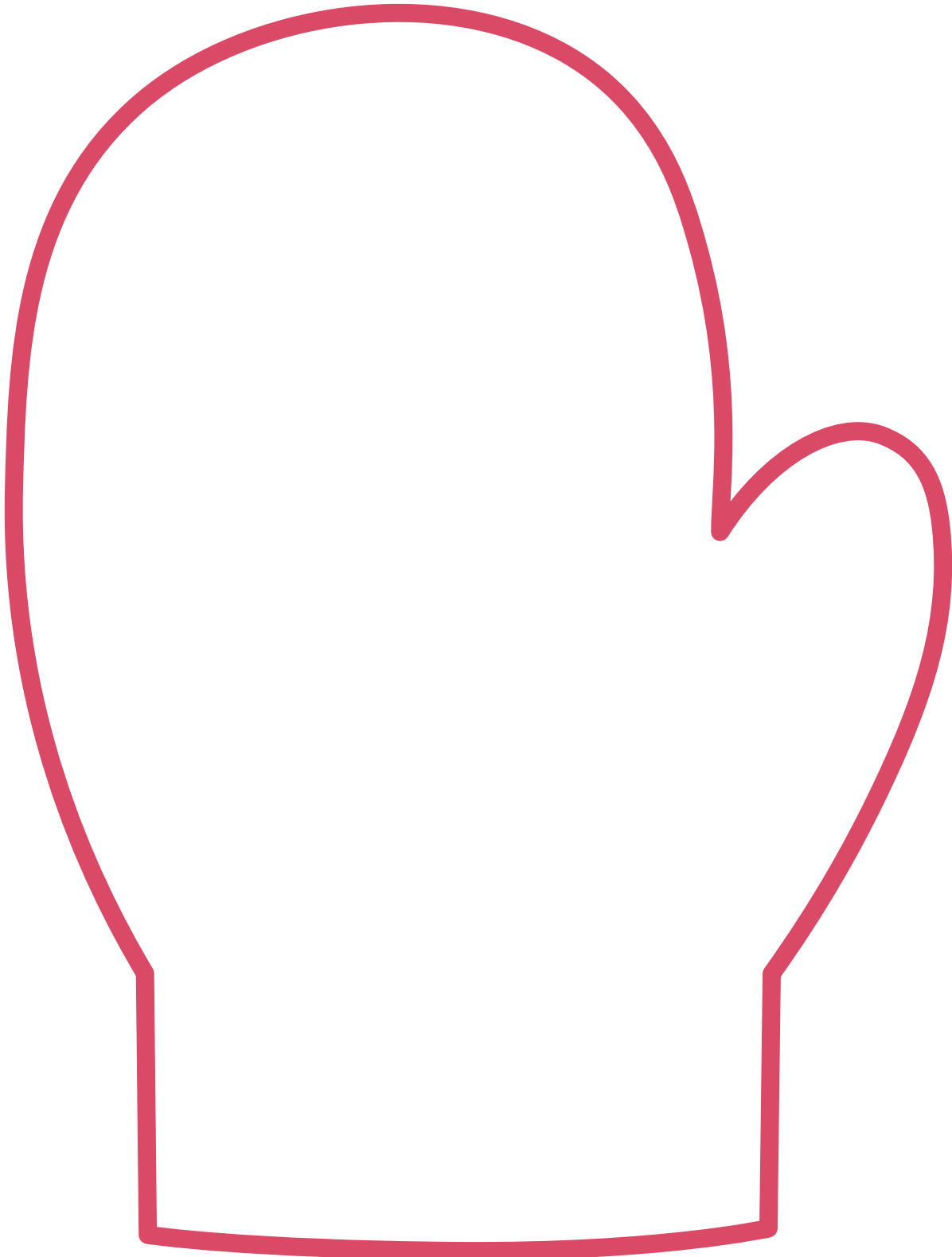
- **Gabriel Dumont Shop:** <https://gdins.org/product/metis-christmas-mittens/>
- **Amazon:** <https://a.co/d/bvSywHy>
- **YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/T0iRwJJWI9k?si=GctWqw3f-dLGt8lp>



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Appendix 2: Mitten Template





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Appendix 3:

Heritage Michif Pronunciation Guide

English	Michif	Pronunciation
<i>Title</i>	aen shinihkatayk	ay SHIN-ick-a-TAKE
<i>Grade ("year of school")</i>	l'aanii d'ikol	la-KNEE dee-COL
<i>Subject ("explaining what is being learned")</i>	Kaykwy kaa kishkayhtamihk	cake-WHY kah kish-KAY-tuh-MICK
<i>Topic ("specifically what we're talking about")</i>	ispray kaa piikishkwatamihk	iss-PRAY kah PEEK-ish-KWAH-tuh-MICK
<i>Overview ("talking about what is being learned")</i>	wiihtamakayhk kaykwy kaa kishkayhtamihk	wee-TUM-a-CAKE cake-WHY kah kish-KAY-tuh-MICK
<i>Assessment ("How it will be measured")</i>	taanishi aen tipahamihk	taan-SHIH ay tip-AH-ha-MICK
<i>Time</i>	li taan	lih TAH
<i>Curriculum Outcomes ("what should happen")</i>	kaykwy chi kii ishpayihk	cake-WHY chih KEY ish-pah-YICK
<i>I Can Statement ("I can do it")</i>	Gashkihtaan	Gahsh-kih-TAHN
<i>Materials Needed ("Things needed to do this")</i>	lii zafayr poor chi ooshitaahk ooma	lee za-FAIR pohr chih oh-sh-TAHCK oh-MA
<i>Lesson Description ("How to do it")</i>	taanishi aen ishi ooshihtaahk	taan-SHIH ay ishih oh-sh-TAHCK

*Capital letters indicate stressed syllables

