Wee Folk Art presents... A Homeschool Companion Guide



## Winter Wonderland 12 Week Curriculum (Preschool-Kindergarten / Ages 4-6)

Please Note: I have developed these curriculum materials to use with my own family. I am not offering any legal advice on homeschooling nor can I gaurentee in any way that these materials will meet your state standards for education. It is up to you to be sure your family is working within your state's guidelines. I will try to keep all links/book lists current but obviously use caution when visiting websites and note that book availibilies change all the time. In most cases you should be able to find a suitable replacement.

If you find any major mistakes please let me know via email (michelle@weefolkart.com) but please ignor minor mistakes such as typos. I try... but remember this is a labor of love not a business. One of the best ways to say thank you is to place your Amazon or BWB orders by starting on our site. The little gift cards I get help me find great books to share with you!

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# Winter Wonderland Curriculum Overview

(Preschool-Kindergarten / Ages 4-6)

WEEK	Primary Story	Enrichment Book	Activities	Art + Poetry
ONE "J"	The Tomten By Astrid Lindgren	The Story of Snow By Mark Cassino	Water Color Painting with Salt NS: Crystal Study	ر Art: Cave Painting Poem: First Snow FF: Jasmine Fairy
TWO "K"	Snowballs By Lois Ehlert	How Do You Know It's Winter By Allan Fowler	Paper Snowflakes Russian Teacakes NS: Snow Pack	Art: Raven Addressing Poem: First Snow FF: Kingcup Fairy
THREE "L"	Sleep, Big Bear, Sleep By Maureen Wright	Hibernation By Margaret Hall	Ice Wreath NS: Blubber	Art: Saint Eustice Poem: First Snow FF: Lily-of-the-Valley Fairy
FOUR ABC Review	First Snow in the Woods By Carl Sam	Animals in Winter By Henrietta Bancroft	Pine Cone Feeder Peanut Butter Cookies NS:Tree Age	Art: Grovesner Hunt Poem: First Snow
FIVE "M"	Gregory's Shadow By Don Freeman	Groundhog Day By Michelle Becker or What Makes a Shadow By Clyde Bulla	Shadow Portrait NS:Winter Warmth	Art: Peaceable Kingdom Poem: Stopping by the Woods FF: Mallow Fairy
SIX "N"	The Mitten By Alvin Tresselt	Under the Snow By Melissa Stewart	Fleece Mittens Grapenut Cookies NS:Warm Covering	Art:The Horse Fair Poem: Stopping by the Woods FF: Nasturtium Fairy
SEVEN "O"	Grady the Goose By Denise Nelson	What is Migration? By Bobbie Kalman	Contact Paper Stained Glass NS: Frost Formation	Art: Cattleya Orchid Poem: Stopping by the Woods FF: Orchis Fairy
EIGHT ABC Review	Valentine Bears By Eve Bunting	Saint Valentine By Robert Sabuda or Grizzly Bear Family Book By Michio Hoshino	Valentines Lemon Sugar Cookies NS:Winter Bubbles	Art: Rabbits on a Log Poem: Stopping by the Woods
NINE "P"	Dogteam By Gary Paulsen	Snow Dogs! Racers of the North By Ian Whitelaw	Tin Lantern NS: Snow Tracks	Art: Cat and Bird Poem:Three Little Kittens FF: Pansy Fairy
TEN "Q"	Owl Moon By Jane Yolen	Where are the Night Animals? By Mary Fraser	Oil Pastles on Black Nightwalk & Hot Chocolate NS: Star Gaze	Art:The Snail Poem:Three Little Kittens FF: Queen of Meadow Fairy
ELEVEN "R"	St. Patrick's Day in the Morning By Eve Bunting	Patrick: Patron Saint of Ireland By Tommy de Paola or The Spring Equinox By Ellen Jackson	Leprachun Gnome NS: Ice Melt	Art: Canoe of Fate Poem:Three Little Kittens FF: Ragged Robin Fairy
TWELVE ABC Review	At Grandpa's Sugar Bush By Margaret Carney	Sap to Syrup By Inez Snyder	Maple Candy FT: Sugar Shack NS: Pond Melt	Art:Wall-Eyed Carp Poem:Three Little Kittens

Additional Books + Supplies

Picture Study: Come Look with Me Animals by Gladys Blizzard

Nature Study: Nature in a Nutshell for Kids by Jean Potter

Poetry: Flower Fairy Coloring Book & Poems, Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Night illustrated by Susan Jeffers Manipulatives: Bird Feeder & Bird ID Field Guide (My kids love the Bird Songs: 250 North American Birds in Song book).

Optional: Leap Frog Letter Factory DVD, D'Nealian Handwriting 26 Little Books Lowercase, Explode the Code Books A, B, C, Games for Math: Playful Ways to Help Your Child Learn Math.

Craft Supplies: Read through the crafts for additional supplies. I haven't had a chance to create a completed list but there is an included supply checklist sheet that you can fill out.

## Winter Wonderland

Winter Wonderland was developed as a twelve week fall program when my oldest was in kindergarten and my middler in preschool (originally published Jan 2009). It is the first term of a 3 term year schedule that focuses on the rhythm of the seasons with a special emphasis on holidays and nature. To complete the year you will also need to download harvest Time (term one) and Bees, Butterflies and Buds (term three). This program was designed as a gentle way to introduce my children to the world around us. We read, baked, and crafted together. We spent a lot of time outdoors and at our kitchen table completing Nature Studies. It was a wonderful year that we all enjoyed thoroughly. I'm now dusting it off in preparation of using it again with my youngest.

#### How is this program set up?

Each week includes one fictional story to be read two or three times throughout the week and one corresponding nonfiction book that can be read once. These books will cover all the social studies and science you need at this age. Each week includes one or two activities that correspond with the book theme of the week. One journal page with your child's narration is completed each week. I also encourage you to take a weekly Nature Walk throughout the term. I know when the weather is fridgid we can sometimes use encouragement to get outdoors. Bundle up and enjoy the Winter Wonderland. We also add in a picture studies and poem memorization. Keep in mind that the layout is very flexible and you will have to determine when to complete each task. You will find a Weekly Guide within this packet to help you get organized. You can complete the 'assignments' by working two, three or four days a week.

#### Preschooler

The Flower Fairy Alphabet coloring book & corresponding poems are a lovely way to introduction your preschooler to the alphabet. Please note, the letters are arranged in the order they are presented in the Explode the Code Series for Kindergarten. You can follow that order or just start with A if you would like. Handwriting wise I'm happy if my preschoolers can write their own name (I write my preschooler's name with a yellow marker on lined paper for her to trace) but you can easily add in the D'Nealian Handwriting Little Books, completing one a week if you have a child who would like more instruction. For math we play counting games (counting bears, beans, pennies), use pattern beads and play simple card games like Go Fish, War and Memory (we use a Math Deck - no face cards and Aces are marked as Is). For math game ideas I recommend the book "Games for Math" by Peggy Kaye. We also practice color and shape recognition. Puzzles are a great too.

#### Kindergarten

To make this a full curriculum for a kindergartner you will need to add in a math program, I recommend Right Start Math A, and a phonics program, I use the Introduction to Explode the Code Books A, B, C for Kindergarten (and possibly book I). I have scheduled the alphabet in the order they appear in ETC. ETC also has teacher guides if you would like assistance in introducing phonics. I do recommend the Leapstart Letter Factory DVD as well but be careful with the sounds for R and L. On the video the R comes off sounding like ER and the L like UL... be sure to repeat the sounds to your child without the leading vowel. When my kids start showing an interest in reading I start with the Bob books and move onto the Now I'm Reading readers. We use D'Nealian style handwriting books. I have added both the D'Nealian Handwriting Little Books and the Kindergarten book to my Amazon list. "Games for Math" by Peggy Kaye is a great add on.

#### That's A LOT of Books

Yes, it is. 24 books a term, 3 terms in a year... gulp! I'm fortunate to have my mother's old preschool library available to me and therefore own most of the listed titles. But do not despair. You don't need to buy them all. I recommend purchasing the Primary Story Books. Those are the books you and your children will want to read again and again. Amazon's 4 for 3 promotion is available on most children's books which helps bring the cost down or try Better World Books to get used books. Then, use your library to fill in the Enrichment Books. If you can't find the exact enrichment book I list at your library that is o.k.. You can make substitutions.

#### Additional items... Do I really need a Bird Feeder?

I highly recommed it. A lot of what you will be reading about this term is how animals surrive in the winter. Although we can't peek into a bear's den or follow wolf tracks into the forest (I don't recommend trying either btw)... placing a bird feeder outside a main window in your home is a great way for you and your child to observe animals all winter long.

#### Journal Pages + Narration

Every week you should complete at least one Journal Page with your child (print at least 12 copies). There are several ways you can use these pages but the basic idea is to have your child narrate back to you a summation of the Primary Story you just read. Younger children or children new to narration may need help from you, in which case you can ask them leading questions (What happened first? Who was the main character? What did she want? How did she get it? etc.). You can either write the narration directly on the page (good for young students), write the narration on a separate sheet of paper and have your child copy it to their page (good for older students) or neatly write the narration. Regardless of how you record the narration, be sure to follow grammar rules. Encourage



your child to narrate in complete sentences. Younger children may need coaxing. Remind your child that all sentences start



with a capital letter and end with a punctuation mark. Every main word in a title should be capitalized (you do not capitalize little words such as, and, of, the). The second part of the journal page is to have your child draw a picture about the story in the box. You may choose to have your child do this while you read the story or after she completes her narration. I have found that my very active son actually listens better when his hands are engaged in a task but my daughter does better curled up on my lap during the story with time to color after.

Feel free to make extra copies of the journal page to record field trips, science experiments or nature studies. I leave blank copies of the journal pages in my children's coloring area for them to write stories and such on whenever they want. You can find a variety of different journal pages available on WeeFolkArt.com with varying line spacings, number of boxes, etc.

You may choose to use the journal pages to record some of your child's activities. I will paste a photo of my child completing a craft in the coloring box and add a few notes in the space provided. I then tuck the journal page back into my notebook along with my child's narration and I have a great portfolio of my children's work.

#### Nature Studies

In your activity box you will see some Nature Studies (NS) listed. These are all easy and fairly quick activities to complete with your children. They can all be found in the book "Nature in a Nutshell for Kids." Feel free to try additonal activities or change up the order based on your climate. For those of you who joined us for our Harvest Time unit will find that these Nature Studies take the place of the Field Trip suggestions. Our family tends to 'hibernate' a bit during the winter months sticking closer to home. The layering on of boots, hats, mittens, coats then dealing with car seats just about does me in. ;) Although most of the Nature Studies suggested can easily be done in your own backyard I do encourage you to visit your local Nature Centers and/or hiking trails. There are many observations you can make on a winter walk that you cannot see when all the leaves are in bloom. Enjoy the quiet of a forest blanketed in snow.



Look for footprints and other evidence of animal activity. I also recomend placing a bird feeder outside a prominent window. This will help bring the wildlife to you. We love to sit and watch the birds at our kitchen table.

## Poetry

Each month you will be memorizing one poem. There are many different ways to do this. Try reading it to your child three times, then have you child repeat the poem as best as they can remember with you. After that, have you child repeat the poem with you three time in a sitting. When they are ready have them try on their own. This is a great activity to work on in the car. You can also use line from the poems for copy work/handwriting practice. When they have learned the poem have them recited it for someone other than you. Maybe they can call a grandparent. My children love reciting poems that they have learned to friends and family. Recitation is a great beginning to public speaking, a life skill everyone should develop. Don't forget to review past poems as well.

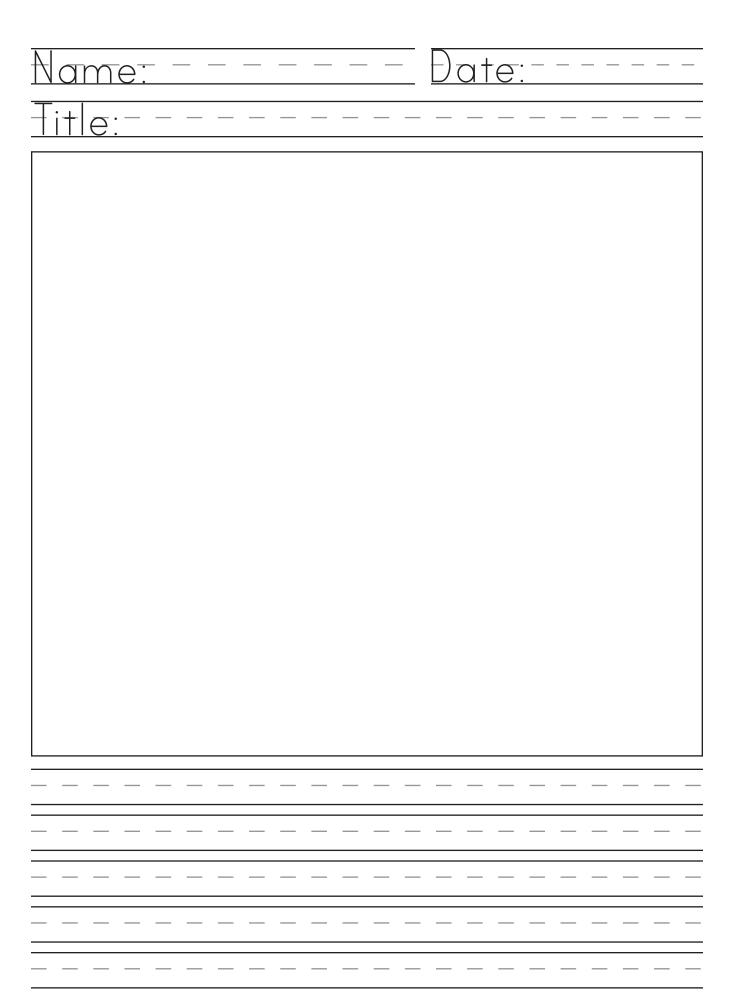
First Snow by Marie Louise Allen	Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening	Three Little Kittens
	by Robert Frost	Three little kittens,
Snow make whiteness where		They lost their mittens,
it falls.	Whose woods these are I think I know.	And they began to cry,
The bushes look like pop-	His house is in the village, though;	Oh, mother, dear,
corn-balls.	He will not see me stopping here	We sadly fear,
And places where I always play,	To watch his woods fill up with snow.	Our mittens we have lost.
Look like somewhere else	My little horse must think it queer	What! Lost your mittens,
today.	To stop without a farmhouse near	You naughty kittens,
	Between the woods and frozen lake	Then you shall have no pie.
	The darkest evening of the year.	Meow, meow, meow, meow,
		Then you shall have no pie.
	He gives his harness bells a shake	
	To ask if there is some mistake.	The three little kittens,
	The only other sounds the sweep	They found their mittens,
	Of easy wind and downy flake.	And they began to cry,
		Oh, mother, dear,
	The woods are lovely, dark, and deep,	See here, see here,
	But I have promises to keep,	Our mittens we have found.
	And miles to go before I sleep,	
	And miles to go before I sleep.	What, found your mittens,
		Then you're good kittens,

We have some longer poems to learn this term. To help learn the Robert Frost poem I highly recommend the book illustrated by Susan Jeffers. It is lovely. The Three Little Kittens Poem has several more stansas and several slightly different variations. Feel free to use the version you are familiar with and add in the extra stansas if you and your child would like.

And you shall have some pie.

Then you shall have some pie.

Purr, purr, purr, purr,





## Salt + Water Colors Painting

For this project you will need water color paints, water color paper, a black crayon and large salt crystals (kosher). If you would like you can choose a picture out of the book for inspiration. Start your painting by draw outlines for your picture with black crayon. Use watercolor paints to fill in the colors. Over some of the wet areas of paint (it needs to be fairly wet) in the background portion of your image sprinkle the kosher salt. I highly suggest you place a tray under your painting first. Once the paint dries we brush off the salt. It creates a tie-dyed, snowy looking background. When we have done this in the past some areas were even left with a sparkly, glittery salt residue (can't see in the photos) that looks like ice crystals on the page.

## Paper Snowflakes

The trick to cutting out nice snowflakes is to remember that snowflakes are 6 sided. To start, cut a sheet of paper into a square. Fold one corner across to the other corner. You should now have a triangle. Turn so that the open point is facing up. Fold the right corner to the left corner. Turn so that the open flat edge is down. You can measure and make marks along the bottom edge to divide it into thirds. Fold the right corner over 2/3rds. Fold the left corner over 1/3. Flip over the paper and set it point side down. Cut off the "ears" sticking up above the flat edge. Now you can round the top edge and cut out shapes from the edges. Cut out lots of snowflakes to hang in your window, make a garland or hang from the ceiling. If you would like to cut out virtual snowflakes or practice designs visit: http://snowflakes.barkleyus.com.

## Snowball Cookies (Russian Teacakes)

I c. butter I t. vanilla 2 1/4 c. flour 3/4 c. finely chopped nuts I/2 c. confectioners sugar I/4 t. salt

#### DIRECTIONS

Mix butter, sugar and vanilla thoroughly. Stir flour and salt together; blend in. Mix in nuts. Chill dough in the fridge. Roll dough in 1 inch balls. Place on ungreased baking sheet. (Cookies do not spread) Bake 10-12 minutes in a 400 oven or until set but not brown. While still warm, roll in confectioner's sugar. Cool. Roll in sugar again.

## Ice Wreath

For this project you need a bunt pan, cranberries (or other bright fruit) and gathered greenery. Place assorted pine boughs and cranberries in a bunt pan filled with water. Place the pan outside (if it is below freezing) or level in your freezer. Once it has frozen solid, dip the bottom of the pan in hot water for a moment (to release the ice from the pan) then flip the pan over onto the table. You should now have a pretty, natural, ice wreath you can hang outside and enjoy while the weather is cold.

## Pinecone Feeder

To make these easy pine cone bird feeders you will need, peanut butter (or shortening or lard), cornmeal, bird seed, pine cones and yarn. Mix I cup peanut butter and I tablespoon cornmeal together (1/4 of the mixture should cover a pinecone). Use a butter knife to spread peanut butter mixture on each scale of a pinecone. Once coated with peanut butter, roll the pinecones in the seeds. Tie a piece of yarn or ribbon to the top of the pine cone, then hang them near your bird feeder. The birds will enjoy this special treat.



peanut butter is safe for the birds, which is why I recommend mixing it with cornmeal but you can do this project without any peanut butter using all lard or crisco if you would like. Here are some articles I found helpful that discuss the peanut butter myth... http://www.familycorner.com/family/leisure/peanut\_butter\_and\_birds.shtml, http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/learning/bird-feeding-tips/bird-feeding-myths, http://www.massaudubon.org/Nature\_Connection/wildlife/ index.php?subject=Birds:%20General%20Info&id=40.

## Peanut Butter Cookies

These were my absolute favorite cookies as a kid. I still love 'em.

I/2 c. peanut butter
8 tbsp butter, softened
I/2 c. granulated sugar
I/2 firmly packed light brown sugar
I egg
I/2 tsp vanilla extract
I/2 tsp salt
I/2 tsp baking soda
I cup flour

#### DIRECTIONS

Cream together the peanut butter and butter, beat in the two sugars and then stir in the remaining ingredients. Arrange by teaspoonfuls on baking sheets. Press flat with a fork. Bake at 350 degrees for 8-10 minutes.

## Shadow Portrait

Tape a large sheet of paper to the wall. Have your child sit or stand in front of the paper. Turn off the room light and aim a flash light or other lamp at the wall. Trace your child's shadow with a pencil. Once you have the outline done, turn on the lights and place the paper on the table. Your child can now color in their portrait. They can either make it look like themselves or fill it in with pictures of things they like.

## Fleece Mittens

Loosely trace your child's hand onto a piece of paper, including her wrist. Draw a second line 1/4" out from the traced line. This is your mitten pattern. Cut out 4 pieces of fleece. Lay two mitten pieces right sides together and pin. Have your child help you sew up the outside of the mitten all the way around. Be sure to leave the wrist portion open. Sew up the second mitten. Turn your mittens right side out and put them on. If you would like, you can turn under the edge of the cuff but fleece does not fray and you can leave them as is or cut them with pinking shears.

## Grapenut Cookies

These cookies are so yummy and hearty that they make a wonderful snack.

I 1/2 c. flour
I t. baking soda
I 1/2 c. (3 sticks) margarine
2/3 c. firmly packed brown sugar
2/3 c. granulated sugar
I egg
I t. vanilla
2 c. Post Grape-Nuts cereal
2 c. oatmeal
I c. dried fruit (cranberries, raisins, etc.)

#### DIRECTIONS

Mix flour and baking soda in small bowl. Bear margarine in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed to soften. Gradually add sugars, beating until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla. Gradually add flour mixture, beating well after each addition. Stir in cereal, oats and fruit. Drop by rounded tablespoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheets. Bake in a 375 oven for 8-10 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool I minutes; remove from cookie sheets. Cool completely on wire racks.



## Contact Paper Stained Glass Hearts

For this project you will need clear contact paper, construction paper, tissue paper and scissors. Start by cutting pink, red and white tissue paper in approximately 1/2 to 1 inch squares. Note: a little goes a long way.

Fold a sheet of construction paper in half and cut out a large heart. You can open the heart to check out the shape. Refold it to make any adjustments. While the heart is still folded, make a parallel cut about 1" inside the heart. This will give you your window frame. Save the inside heart cutout to make a smaller version.

Open the heart and center it on a piece of contact paper. Place the squares of tissue paper inside the heart on the contact paper. Be careful not to go over the edge of the window frame. When the heart is filled with tissue paper, place a second piece of contact paper over the whole thing. Be careful not to get air bubbles. Cut

away the excess contact paper. If you leave a little bit of contact paper around the edge of the heart it will stick together better. You can now either tape your hearts in a window or use a hole punch at the top of the hearts and hang them with string.

## Valentines

I don't have any directions here... just make homemade Valentines and send them off to your loved ones. They will love getting something special from your child. Be sure to have your child help you address the envelopes.

## Lemon Sugar Cookies

These sugar cookies are yummy without icing... although you can ice if you would like. Sprinkling the colored sugars on top prior to baking adds a pretty touch without needing icing.

#### Lemon Sugar Cookies

I 1/2 c sugar
I/2 c butter
I/2 c vegetable shortening
2 eggs
2 1/2 c sifted all-purpse flour
I t baking powder
I t salt
I tbs lemon zest (grated lemon peel)
I t lemon flavoring

#### DIRECTIONS

Blend butter, shortening and sugar. Add eggs and beat. Combine flour, baking powder and salt, adding a small amount at a time to the mixture, blending well. Add zest and flavoring. Chill dough. On a well floured board, roll out a small quantity at a time to about a 1/4" thickness. Dough not in use should be kept refrigerated. Cut into shapes and bake on a lightly greased cookies sheet, for about 10-12 minutes at 375. Bake until set, but not brown. Sprinkle with colored sugars, before baking, or frost after baking. Dough can be frozen to bake at a later date.

## Tin Can Lantern

For this project you will need an empty tin can, a hammer, a nail, a pencil, a piece of metal wire and a pair of goggles. Fill a clean, empty tin can with water and place it in the freezer. When it has frozen solid, lay the can on its side and use the hammer and nail to punch holes in the can (you may want goggles for this part & your child may need help). You can punch the hole in patterns or just wherever your child would like. Be sure to punch a hole on other side of the can up near the top edge where you can attach the metal wire to make a handle. When you are done punching holes in the can, remove the ice, dry the can and place a candle in your new lantern. If you would like your child to be able

to play with the lantern I recommend using flameless LED candles available at craft stores like Michaels. Be careful with your lantern, the edges can be sharp.



Night-Walk + Oil Pastel Drawing Take a walk at night with your child. Your child will find it so

special to be out of bed and outside after dark. Remember to take your tin can lantern with you. You do not need to walk far but bundle up and enjoy the stillness of the night. You should talk in whispers and when you are done, go home and enjoy a cup of hot cocoa together.

The following day have your child draw a picture of your night walk. Use oil pastels on black construction paper to give the drawing a feeling of darkness.

## Hot Cocoa

This recipe makes a large jar of mix. We often give jars of

the mix as gifts. Parents note... I really enjoy a couple teaspoons of it in my coffee.

#### HOT CHOCOLATE MIX

2 boxes 8 quart instant milk 2 lb. box Nestles Quick 2 lb. Confectionary sugar I II oz. jar Coffee Mate

#### DIRECTIONS

Mix thoroughly and store in an air tight container.

To make: I/3 c. mixture to a cup of hot water. May add miniature marshmallows after powder is dissolved.

#### Gnome Leprechaun

I'm going to refer you to our website for the Gnome Leprechaun Directions... http://weefolkart.com/content/ gnome-leprechaun. You will need a wooden people turning peg, felt pieces, embroidery floss and craft glue to complete this project.

Maple Sugar Candy If you can, find a Sugar Shack to visit. Around our house, Maple trees are tapped in March. Sugaring runs for a couple weeks depending on the weather. Even if you can't find a sugar shack in your area enjoy this special Spring treat.

#### Maple Sugar Candy

2 cups Maple Syrup stainless steal pot candy thermometer tray, candy molds or muffin tins to pour off candy wooden spoon

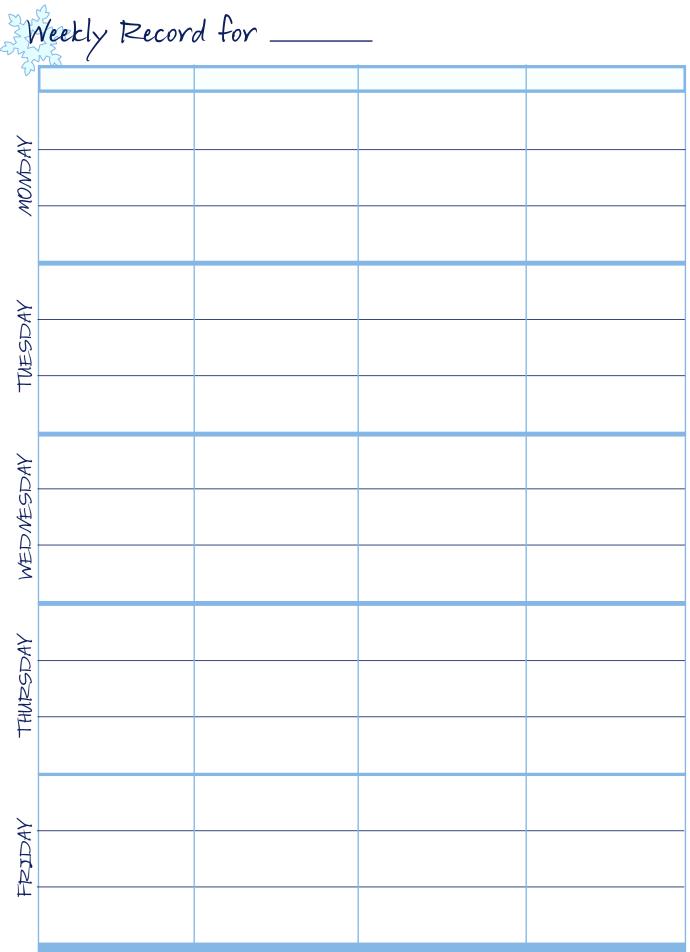
#### DIRECTIONS

Bring the Maple Syrup to a 'soft ball' heat (235F), stirring occasionally. If you do not have a candy



thermometer drip the syrup into a cup of cool water. When a drip of syrup forms a soft ball in the water you have reached the right temp. Remove from heat and let it cool down to 125F without mixing. Once it has reached 125F, stir until the syrup loses its glossy color and takes on a creamy look. Pour off into greased candy molds. Let cool and enjoy.

PLEASE NOTE: Kids should not be near the boiling sugar. IT IS HOT. Have then watch from a safe distance. My love cleaning out the pot when I am done. We like breaking up our Maple Candy and using it on our oatmeal. Yum!



# Resource Planner for \_\_\_\_\_

Book List				
Title	Author	Subject	Owner	Due/Price

Project Supply ListItemProjectItemProject				
Item	Project	Item	Project	

_Field Trips + Enrichment Activities			
Activity/Location	Contact Information	Date	Cost/Paid