

March (11th) in Mrs. Russo's 1st grade class at Millridge was "Artist of Choice" and since we are in the midst of the seasonal tapping of Maple trees in Ohio, Grandma Moses's "Sugaring Off" was the perfect print! We discussed the process of making maple syrup as shown in this very detailed painting.

I was able to obtain enough (free) brochures for the entire class in Chardon for the "Maple Sugaring Open House Weekends" (3/12-13 and 3/19-20). The actual Maple Festival is the last two weeks in April if anyone else wants to look into that as well.

Our discussion also included the 1969 6cent Grandma Moses postage stamp "The 4th of July" whose actual painting hangs in the Whitehouse. I was able to obtain 100 of these cancelled stamps on eBay for a very minimal cost so each child was able to take one of these home.

For our art project we had an art "lesson" on drawing landscapes from top to bottom as Grandma Moses did with the *smallest shapes at top and largest at bottom* to show distance. We used this practice to design *our own* (49cent) postage stamps. (I cut out plain white paper with zig-zag scissors and printed out postage at bottom then pasted on to black construction paper)

We were amazed at the children's ability to grasp and apply this concept as shown in the pictures below !

I left "Curious George Makes Maple Syrup" and "If You Give a Pig A Pancake" books for the class to borrow and share till next time.

