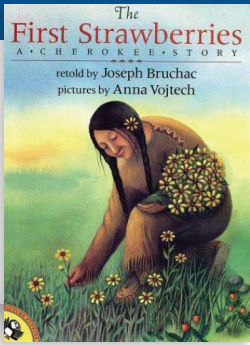


THE FIRST STRAWBERRIES

A Cherokee Legend

by Joseph Bruchac Pictures by Anna Vojtech



Introduce your child to legends with **The First Strawberries!**

The First Strawberries is a captivating Cherokee legend, retelling the creation of strawberries. A quarrel between the first man and the first woman is reconciled when the sun causes strawberries to grow out of the earth.

What is a legend? A legend is an old story that has been passed down for many generations and is widely believed, but cannot be proved to be true.

»» BEFORE READING

DISCUSS LEGENDS: Can you name any famous legends? Some examples are:

- › Robin Hood and his Merry Men (England)
- › The Fountain of Youth (Various)
- › Romulus and Remus (Ancient Rome)

LOOK AT THE COVER: Can you tell what season this book is set by the colors? What is the woman doing?

FEELINGS: Just by looking at the cover, can you tell if this is going to be a happy or a sad story?

»» READ THE STORY

The students can either read to themselves, or they can listen to the story while you read it out loud. Have students take a deep breath, get some wiggles out and really focus on what is being read. Just listen. Save the questions and comments until after the story.

»» AFTER READING QUESTIONS

- › What was life like for the man and woman at the beginning of the story?
- › Why did the man become angry?

- › How did the man express his anger?
- › How did the woman express her anger?
- › How could the man and woman have expressed their emotions differently?
- › Who did the man talk to about his problem?
- › How did the strawberries help the woman to forgive?

»» ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY ONE: PUPPET SHOW

Supplies needed: popsicle/wooden sticks, colored construction paper, colored pencils/crayons, scissors, glue

- › Encourage students to retell the story by making stick puppets of the characters (i.e. man, woman, sun, different types of berries) and using them to retell the story in a puppet show.

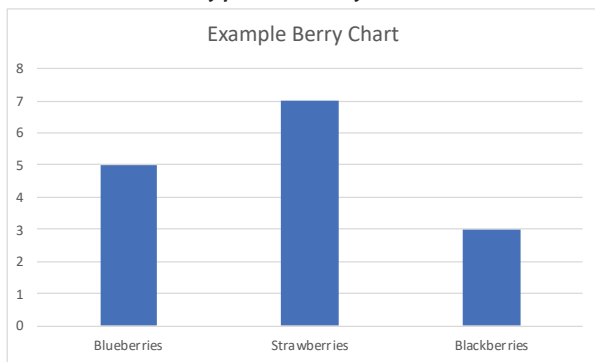
ACTIVITY TWO: CHARTING BERRIES

Supplies Needed: Markers, poster board

- › By raise of hand, count how many children have eaten strawberries, blackberries and blueberries. Keep a tally on the poster board.



› Create a bar graph that shows how many children have eaten which type of berry.



ACTIVITY THREE: LIFE CYCLE OF A STRAWBERRY

Supplies Needed: Paper, colored pencils and watercolor paints

- › Teach the plant cycle of the strawberry. Here is a video from Great Country Farms for reference. “Virtual School Tour- Strawberry Life Cycle” www.youtube.com/watch?v=crhXboYj2bY

ACTIVITY FOUR: FORGIVENESS

- › Have the children tell about times they have forgiven someone.
- › Children could be given scenarios to role play.

Scenario 1: “Jamie and Timmy are playing ball. Susan comes running by and knocks Jamie down. The fall hurts her knee. Later that same day, Susan comes over to Jamie’s house and asks if she can play ball with Jamie and Timmy.”

- › How would Jamie feel when Susan knocked her down?
- › What should Jamie do to show she forgives Susan when Susan comes and asks to play ball? (Impress upon the children that we are to forgive everyone, even if they do not ask for forgiveness or even feel sorry for their wrongs.)

Scenario 2: “On Sally’s way home from school, she stops to visit her cousin, Matt. She has a present for her mother in her hand. Matt grabs it away from her. He drops it and it breaks. That evening Matt comes and tells Sally he is very sorry.”

How would Sally feel?

What should she do when Matt comes over?

›› FURTHER RESOURCES

- › Find out more about author Joseph Bruchac on his website: www.josephbruchac.com
- › Fun facts about strawberries: www.witsprogram.ca/pdfs/schools/books/the-first-strawberries/strawberry-facts.pdf
- › Learn more about the Cherokee people. The word Cherokee comes from the Muskogee word meaning “speakers of another language.” Cherokee people originally called themselves Aniyunwiya (“the principal people”) but today they accept the name Cherokee which is spelled and pronounced “Tsalagi” in their own language. For more information, visit: www.native-languages.org/cherokee.htm
- › Listen to Kevin Nelson with South Dakota Public Broadcasting read The First Strawberries: <https://youtu.be/twLFP7czKNw>



›› THANKS TO OUR CREATORS:



- › Betty Jo Huff and Cary A Thrall