



**GRANDMA'S
THANKSGIVING
VISIT**
A Discovery Play

Recommended for Ages 3 to 6
PreK to Grade 1

A Reproducible Learning Guide for Educators

This guide is designed to help educators prepare for, enjoy, and discuss *Grandma's Thanksgiving Visit*. It contains background, discussion questions and activities appropriate for Ages 3-6.

Programs Are Made Possible, In Part, By Generous Gifts From:

D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities
The Nora Roberts Foundation
PNC Foundation
Smithsonian Youth Access Grants Program

DC Public Schools
Philip L. Graham Fund
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ABOUT THE SHOW

Grandma has arrived for the holiday—and that can only mean making puppets, cooking together, washing the car, and learning lots of fun new things. This musical play with a great big heart brings the whole audience into the family with singing, finger play, and call-and response as we all give thanks for being together.

The Creative Tools for Teaching Ensemble reimagines Family Visits in two languages – fun and educational! These plays were created as part of in-school residencies promoting **creativity and enriched play in early childhood classrooms**, and are now presented at the Smithsonian to encourage everyone to 'get in on the act.' Playing 'pretend' as characters in stories encourages sequencing (What comes next?), verbal skills (What color flowers? Why did it happen like that?), math (How many cupcakes? Let's count the pennies we need to buy the balloon!), and problem solving (Oh no! How can we help?)



'CRAFT' A PLAY

You can make what you saw on stage today. After our shows in schools, the Tools of Discovery ensemble visits Pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms to help classes craft some of the sets, props, and costumes, so they can play family too. Using **both readily available and recycled materials**, we invite audiences to "play the play" at home or in the classroom. Sing songs, make puppets, build forts, and use your imagination to bring these classic stories to life.

FAMILY TRADITIONS

Holidays are a time to spend with family and friends reflecting on the values and beliefs of one's community and culture. *Grandma's Thanksgiving Visit* introduces early learners to pre-literacy, pre-numeracy, and inquiry based learning while exploring topics of family, tradition, and community values. Learn more about how to incorporate these topics in lesson plans on the following pages.



TRY OUT A NEW RECIPE TOGETHER!

Cooking brings families together! Turn your classroom into a kitchen with this simple recipe! ENGLISH MUFFIN PIZZA!

Ingredients:

Sliced English muffins
Ragu Pizza Quick sauce
Shredded mozzarella cheese
(Optional) pepperoni slices or other toppings

Instructions:

1. Spread the pizza sauce on the open face of an English muffin.
2. Sprinkle the shredded mozzarella cheese over the sauce.
3. Time to personalize your pizzas! Add your favorite pizza toppings. Small slices of pepperoni work great on these pizzas.
4. Enjoy! Your pizzas will be delicious served cold, but you can warm them in a microwave as well.



CREATE A PLACEMAT TOGETHER!

Creating something with family and friends is a fun way to bond. Follow these instructions to make a simple placemat for your Thanksgiving feast.

Materials:

Construction paper
Scissors
Glue
Old magazines
Family photos (use with a parent's permission)
Lamination machine or transparent tape

Directions:

- 1) Cut out different pictures that represent things you are thankful for
- 2) Arrange them on the construction paper and glue them down
- 3) Laminate the finished product, or use transparent tape to cover the pictures to make them food and water proof.
- 4) Use your placemat at Thanksgiving dinner!



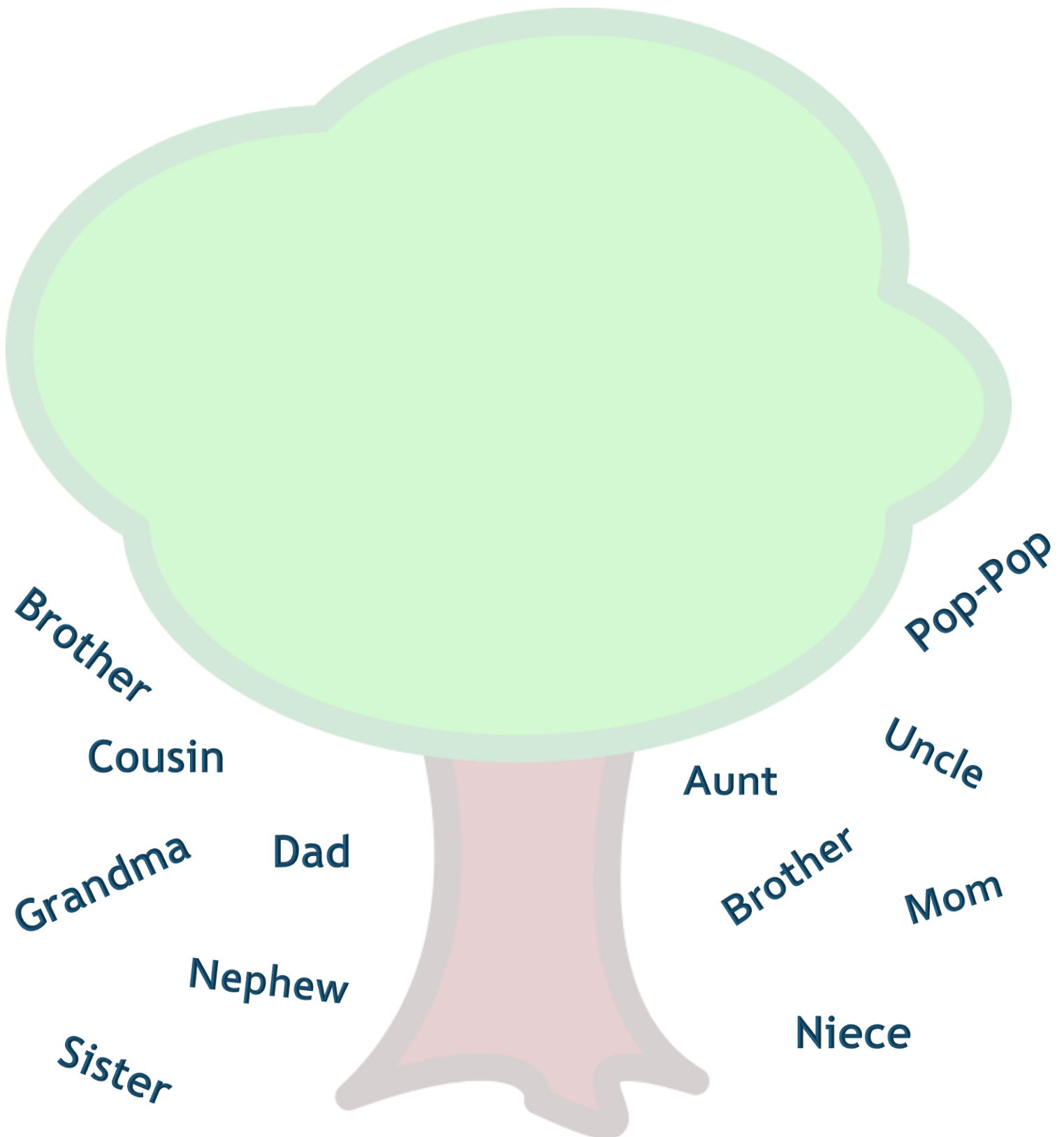
DRAW YOUR OWN FAMILY PORTRAIT



Draw a picture of your family or a favorite holiday memory & then describe it in the space below:

CREATE YOUR OWN FAMILY TREE

Draw pictures of each of your family members, write their names, and connect them to each other according to their relationships. Who was born first? Put them at the top of the tree.



RELATED RESOURCES

Find Smithsonian classroom resources here:

<https://www.si.edu/educators>

Find more activities related to the family theme here:

<https://www.prekinders.com/families-theme/>

Explore how family connections can be made around the kitchen table at the American History Museum:

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/exhibitions/food>



The mission of the Smithsonian Institution is “The increase and diffusion of knowledge.”

Smithsonian Associates advances the Institution’s mission through life-enriching educational and cultural experiences inspired by the Smithsonian’s research and collections for DC-region students, families, and adults, and for learning communities nationwide.

Discovery Theater has been presenting DC-area children with live educational performances for more than 30 years. With programs that enrich the Smithsonian experience for nearly 50,000 children annually, Discovery Theater is a gateway to the exhibits, collections, and themes contained in the museums and galleries on the National Mall and beyond. We explore American history and cultures, folk tales from around the world, and exciting, accessible science and math programs in the company of puppeteers, storytellers, dancers, actors, and musicians. Discovery Theater performances unite ideologies, enact themes that reflect the diversity of its audiences, open avenues of self-reflection, and offer an enjoyable means for parents and teachers to demonstrate life’s lessons. There’s so much to do and explore at the Smithsonian—and Discovery Theater is the ideal place to begin!

For more information, please visit our website: <http://www.discoverytheater.org>



Our Location

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