
Celebrate Lindbergh!

A Monthly Idea Newsletter for Teachers and Homeschoolers--
During a Year of Celebration!

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DECEMBER = GIVING



**CHARLES LINDBERGH GAVE
US ALL SOMETHING...A
HISTORY & LEGACY...A
STATE PARK...A NATIONAL
PARK... PRESERVATION
OF ENDANGERED
SPECIES.**

People who are good and giving are called benevolent when they do generous things for others without expecting a reward. Charles Lindbergh was a **giving** person. He gave each of us the gift of his life, history and legacy.

Charles Lindbergh was at the center of one of the most historic events of the 1900s...the first ever non-stop solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean. On May 20 and 21, 1927, he flew in a small, single-engine plane called the *Spirit of St. Louis*. He wanted to show people that planes could be used to transport goods and people across oceans and continents. His trip brought the world closer together.

When Charles was growing up as a young boy on a farm near Little Falls, Minnesota, he learned to love nature. He liked to sleep on the screen porch of his house over-looking the river. "There I was in close contact with sun, wind, rain, and stars," recalled Charles. He like to do many things that young boys like to do, like dig a hole and make it into a cave, swim in the river, build a raft and float it, climb trees and "hold on to the high branches in a wind, with the trunk swaying and the leaves fluttering and white clouds drifting past overhead." Charles also learned to take care of the farm animals, hunt and fish, help with household chores (like piling wood for the cook stove and hauling ice for the ice box), and enjoyed wildlife—birds, crayfish, turtles, and chipmunks.

After Charles finished high school he and his mother moved away and he went to college in Wisconsin and then went to flying school. But he always loved the farm in Little Falls.

In 1973, shortly before his death, Charles came back to Minnesota to go to his boyhood home. The reason he was there was to give his house to people everywhere so they could come and see it. In 1931 (42 years earlier), he and his half sister, Eva, and his mother, Evangeline, gave 110 acres of land for a park next door to the house.

Charles said, "the park means even more to me [than my memories] because of its preservation for future generations of the wildness and natural beauty I lived in as a child. With each year that passes I feel more convinced of the...need of preserving man's natural environment...I wish my father could have known that the land he chose, largely because of its beauty, would eventually become a park.... Nothing would have pleased him more than the knowledge that thousands of people each year are enjoying his old home."

In addition to giving his boyhood home and the land for a park, Charles Lindbergh helped to get land in the Northern part of Minnesota named as a national Park. He wanted the untouched land to be saved for people to visit in the future. In other parts of the world, he helped to protect animals that were in danger of becoming extinct like eagles in the Philippines and humpback whales.

Charles has given each of us gifts – a rich aviation history to remember, his home and parks to visit, eagles and whales to see, and books about his life that we can read and the *Spirit of St. Louis* plane.

When Charles died, his friends and family wanted people everywhere to remember the many things that were important to him. They wanted to keep his legacy going so they started The Charles A. and Anne Morrow Lindbergh Foundation. The Foundation is an organization that gives gifts of money to people who do work and study in areas that were important to Charles and his wife Anne, like: farming and flying, saving endangered plants and animals, and exploring new things. Charles' life can continue to be a gift to us all – just like he gave generously to us without ever asking for anything in return.

(Quotes from [Boyhood on the Upper Mississippi](#) and a speech given by Charles Lindbergh in 1973.)

(continued above...)

Art Activities Galore!

This month has a wonderful group of art activities listed in the Crayola 'Dream-makers' book! Below and on the following page are the directions for awesome 'Benevolence Scepters', and terrific ideas for some 'gifts From the Heart', which would be a wonderful way to share the giving spirit! Create some of these gifts for the hospital, a senior citizen home or even the other classes in your school.



Benevolence Scepters*

Process:

1. Visualize simple forms that can represent tribal or family qualities such as a tree for an ecology group or a sun for a family with a sunny disposition.
2. Create a scepter staff by placing a 12" x 18" sheet of paper flat on a surface. Roll paper from the 18" side into a tight tube. Apply glue along edge of the paper and press the edge with your hand until it is secure.
3. Form a tennis ball-size amount of modeling material around the top of the tube. Shape it as needed to serve as a base for your more complex symbols.
4. Experiment by mixing white, black and colored modeling compounds.
 - Blend two primary colors (red, yellow, blue) together well to make a secondary hue (orange, green, violet).
 - Blend colored compound with white to create tints and with black to make shades.
 - Create a marbled effect by incompletely blending various colors.
5. Model additional symbol forms, then press these forms firmly onto the basic form attached to the staff.
6. Add decoration and texture, using watercolor pencils. Insert feathers, decorative sequins, buttons, dried grasses, toothpicks or other found objects to enrich the crown of the scepter.
7. Cover the surface of the rolled tube with assorted shapes, lines and patterns using watercolor pencils or markers.

Extension:

1. Give the scepter to another to inspire benevolent behavior in the receiver. Ask the receiver how she feels and to consider and write how the scepter might make her act benevolently. Record the feelings and actions related to benevolent behaviors in a family or class journal.
2. Pass a scepter around a circle of classmates. Each person explains a benevolent act that might be inspired by the scepter while holding it.

* Idea from the Crayola Dream-Makers Program

Lindbergh's Timeline for Take-Off Continues...

December, 1926...

Lindbergh contacts the brokerage firm of Knight, Dysart & Gamble, and believing in him, they offer to raise the \$15,000 needed to reach Paris.



Curriculum Connections...

Discussion Starters:

1. What gifts did Charles Lindbergh give to us?
2. What kind of gifts could you leave behind for others after you are gone?
3. What kind of gifts can we give to others that don't cost money?



Geography Questions:

1. Where are humpback whales found today?
2. Where are the Philippines?
3. What is the name of the national park in Northern Minnesota?

(answer: Voyageurs National Park)

Vocabulary Enrichment: Have students learn the definitions and use each of the following words in a sentence, or all of the words in a paragraph.

- Endangered Species
- Legacy
- Goods
- Benevolent
- Acre



Language Arts:

Start a poetry contest/festival in your own classroom! Display in newsletters, or a class poetry book. Some fun books to get your kids excited:

- Flicker Flash by Joan Bransfield Graham
- Falling Up by Shel Silverstein
- Talking Like the Rain selected by X.J. Kennedy
- Poetry Party by Bruce Lansky



Gifts from the Heart*



Process:

Creating animal portraits

1. Hold a class discussion to determine deserving recipients of a class mural. Consider children's hospitals, senior assisted living homes, airports, hospices or other classes within your own school.
2. Look at how animals are depicted in art and animal photos to discover their distinctive body parts and proportions. Discuss animals that are used to represent human traits – i.e., stubborn as a mule, quiet as a mouse. Think about one animal that best reflects your personality or interests.
3. Draw a portrait of a pet or animal of your choice on a sheet of 9"x12" colored construction paper. Experiment with ways to create body coverings (fur, scales).

Creating the class mural

1. Unroll brown craft paper then cut a 35" x 10' sheet and tape it to a wall or bulletin board.
2. Measure and mark a 3" border around the entire perimeter of the paper with a yardstick. You and your classmates can write first names to fill the border.
3. Project the animal portraits onto the craft paper using an opaque projector. Increase or decrease distance between projector and the mural surface to increase or decrease the drawings and achieve dramatic perspective effects. Trace the images with crayons within the border.
4. Repeat step 3 until all students' portraits are traced onto mural surface. Color heavily, filling the lines and shapes in the portraits.
5. Mix two primary paint colors (red, yellow, blue) together on paper plates in varying amounts to create a range of oranges, greens and violets.
6. Add white to colors to make tints. Add black to colors to create shades. Apply brown mixed with other colors for added color effects.
7. Paint over the portraits, the background area and border using tempera paint thinned with water. Experiment with thinning the tempera so that crayon lines reappear.

**Idea from the Crayola Dream-Makers Program*