

Kokum and Buddy

This unit contains three storyboard stories about a young boy, a grandmother, and Buddy, her dog. Non-native children learn a bit about the culture of First Nations people in northern Saskatchewan. Teachers of aboriginal children can adapt the story to suit their own First Nations community. Use the kinship term for grandmother from any language. Replace the name of the dog with a dog the children are familiar with and so on. Why not draw and add your own story pieces and give Kokum and Buddy a whole new adventure?

How to set up

Before starting, make photocopies of the story pictures and the text to use as your working copies. Save your originals.

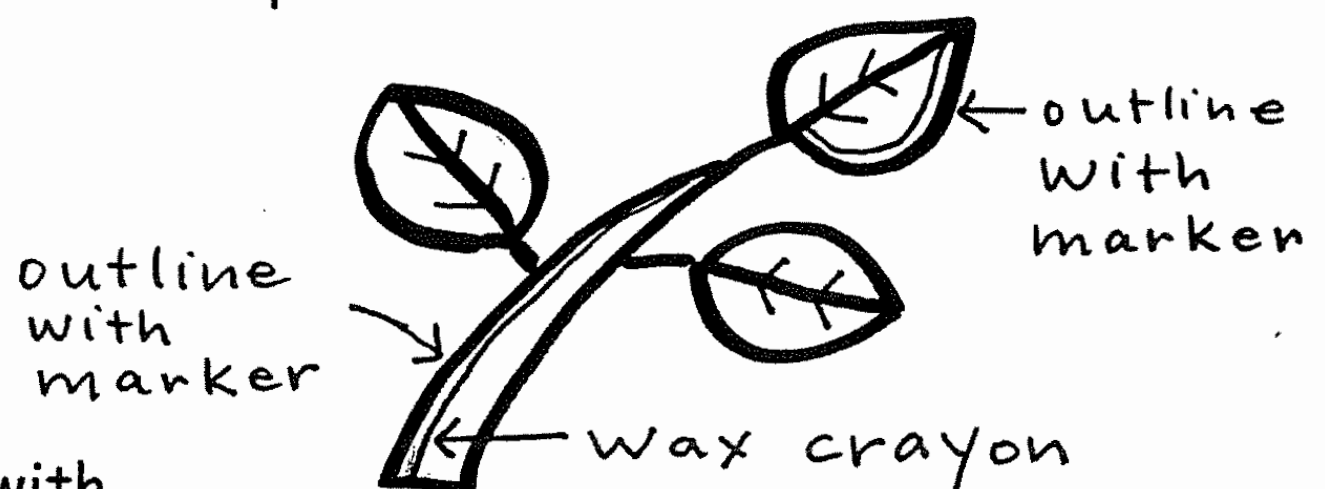
Follow the easy steps

♥ Colouring the story pictures

Wax crayon, applied lightly, makes colouring go faster. Just remember that if you press too hard and get too much wax on the paper, the wax will melt when the piece is laminated.

Use felt markers or high lighters to add darker colour on the edges of the image.

Outline the free images with



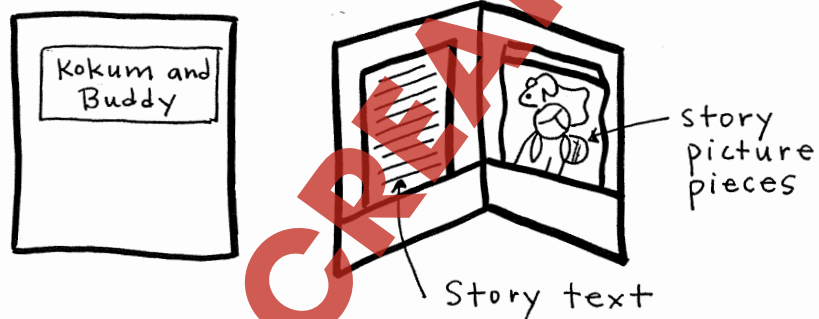
♥ The story text

Trim the pages of the story text. Use a chisel tip marker to outline the page with some colour. Number the pages. Mount the story text onto 8 ½" x 11" bristle pages or cardstock. Laminate. st

♥ Story folders

Make a story folder to hold the text and story pictures.

Label a presentation folder. Write the title of the story on a label placed on the outside of the folder. Store the story picture pieces in a zip close bag, to be placed in one of the pockets.



How to use

Become familiar with the story before telling it to the class. This is an oral story and the text is provided for a reference. You can tell the story your way. Add the story pictures to the storyboard when the text is bolded.

Provide the story folder for students to retell the story.

Because the stories in this unit are told orally with storyboard pictures, it is easy to substitute names and places. Replace the kinship word Kokum with a term more familiar in your community, for example, Baba. Add familiar places. Perhaps there is a town near to you that you can include in the story.

Allow the children to retell the story using the story pieces.

Daniel and Kokum's house



Kokum Goes to Town and Buddy is Home Alone

This is **Kokum**. This is **Buddy**. Kokum is grandmother in the Cree language and a buddy is a buddy in any language.

Buddy is Kokum's best friend. Kokum is Buddy's best friend. They live together in a little **house** just outside of town of Lac La Ronge, Saskatchewan.

One day Kokum said to Buddy, "I am going to town. You must stay at home alone for four hours. It is **one o'clock** now and I will return at five o'clock. Now Buddy, be a good dog."

Kokum left for town.
(take Kokum off the storyboard)

Buddy went in Kokum's bedroom to wait, and wait, and wait.

At **two o'clock**, Buddy was bored and Buddy is a dog who needs to chew, chew, chew. So, Buddy chewed up Kokum's **moccasins** and stuffed them under the bed.
(place the moccasins under the bed)

At **three o'clock** Buddy was even more bored. Buddy chewed up a big ball of **yarn** from Kokum's knitting basket. Buddy put the chewed up yarn on top of the bed.
(place the yarn on top of the bed)

At **four o'clock**, Buddy was even more bored. Buddy chewed up a **rag rug** and stuffed it at the end of the bed.
(place the rug at one end of the bed)

Kokum and Buddy Go For a Walk with Daniel

Daniel likes to visit Kokum and Buddy. Daniel lives in the city so he likes to go for walks when he visits. On their walk, Buddy sniffs out something interesting things to take home. Kokum knows just what to do.

Student objectives

- Students will listen to an oral story.
- Students will retell the story in their own words.
- Students will learn that nature provides for us.
- Students will learn uses of plants by the Cree.

How to use

Explain to students that Kokum is Cree for grandmother.

There are several spellings depending on the dialect. The story is told orally so change the word for grandmother if you wish and teach the class how to spell it.

Does someone in the class have a Kokum?

Follow up discussion

What do you like to do with a Grandparent?
What do you think Kokum and Buddy should do next?
Never eat anything in the wild unless you know what it is.

"Because there are four things above the earth. At your house, away from the city, I can see the sky, the moon and stars at night, and the sun in the daytime."

"Because there are four kinds of animals on earth."

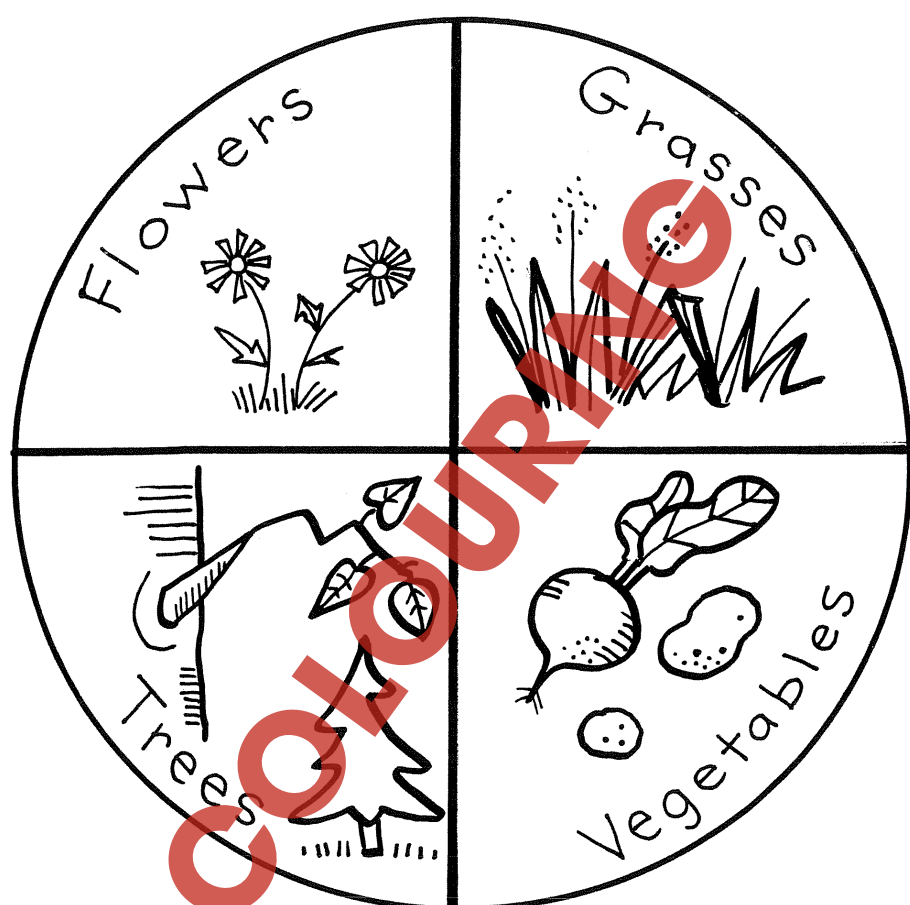
Buddy perked up.

"There are animals that swim, like the fish in the lake. There are animals with wings, like the eagles that fly over your house. There are animals with two legs, like you and me. Best of all there are animals like Buddy with four legs."

"There are four things that everyone needs to live. Kokum, you and Buddy have them all. The air smells clean and fresh. I love all the lakes around us, I love your house that keeps me warm at night. I love all the good food we cook in your kitchen."

"And that's what I think about the number four."

Kokum said, "Daniel, you are a very smart boy."



Bibliography and Resources

Trembach, V. et al. 1003. The Circle of Life - Grade One Teacher Resource for Science. Saskatoon, SK. Saskatoon Tribal Council.

An excellent supplement to the Grade One science curriculum; focus is on the Sacred Number Four.

Leighton, A. (1986). A Guide to 20 Plants and Their Uses by the Cree. La Ronge, SK. Lac La Ronge Indian Band, Education Branch.

Useful black and white illustrations of plants and their uses by the Cree. Suggested activities are included.