

ELCC ADVISORS' BOOK CLUB

Our Book Recommendation:

Métis People Travel!

By: Leah Marie Dorion

Synopsis

This book will help you discover the ways in which the Métis people travelled on land and water throughout the seasons.

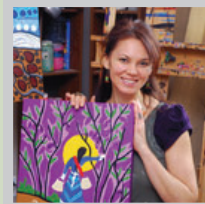


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Age Recommendation

Preschool & Kindergarten



Learn more about Leah Marie Dorion, celebrated Métis author and illustrator.



Why We Love It

Métis people travelled in many different ways before modern roads and vehicles existed. This book invites children to think about how travel looked in the past and how people moved across the land and water in places where there were no roads. With bright, large illustrations, the book introduces different forms of transportation used by Métis people throughout the seasons. Canoes and carts in the spring and fall. Snowshoes and sleds in the winter help show how travel changed depending on the time of year and the environment. Reading this book can spark curiosity and encourage imaginative and dramatic play. Children may recreate journeys, explore seasonal travel, make connections to their own experiences, and create stories inspired by the land and changing seasons..



Métis Connection

Métis communities in Ontario travelled across varied landscapes and waterways using different forms of transportation depending on the season and environment. Knowledge of rivers, portage routes, winter conditions, and overland travel helped families move between communities, harvest, trade, and maintain connections across the region.

Birch Bark Canoe: Canoes supported travel on waterways and were used for transporting goods, visiting communities, fishing, hunting, and harvesting. Métis voyageurs and people needed to understand water currents, paths to portage and seasonal water changes.

Horses and Carts: Horses and carts supported overland travel, trade, hunting, and the movement of goods where waterways were not accessible. The two-wheeled wooden carts made entirely of local materials, would carry heavy loads and could be repaired with wood and sinew along the trails.

Snowshoes: Snowshoes made winter travel possible in deep snow and were adapted to local conditions. The snowshoes were made to allow them to “Float” over the snow.

Sleds: Sleds helped transport goods and supplies over snow and ice during the winter months.

HDLH Foundation Expression

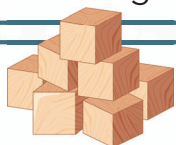
Children explore and extend their ideas through dramatic play. They communicate their thinking through words, actions, movement, and hands-on creations. Children represent their understanding of different modes of transportation, including travel across water, land, and snow. These experiences build confidence, strengthen communication skills, and support children in expressing their understanding in multiple ways.

HDLH Foundation Engagement

Children may show interest and curiosity as they explore materials and create their own boats, carts, and snowshoes. They experiment with floating, balance, movement, and design while testing how objects travel on water and land. Open-ended play encourages children to try out ideas, solve problems, and make decisions about how their creations will function. These experiences support creativity, inquiry, and problem-solving skills.

Building with Blocks and Wheels: Creating Carts and Boats

Using blocks, wheels, and loose parts, children can create carts and build boats using their imagination. Pictures from the book can be added to the play space as a reference and source of inspiration. This play supports fine motor skills, spatial awareness and imaginative thinking.



Water Play: Exploring Boats and Floating

Create a sensory play experience with water. Place boats in the water and allow children to play and observe how they move and float. Add some birch bark to the water, so the children can watch how it floats. This is the same natural material traditionally used to make canoes. This sensory experience encourages curiosity, experimentation, and early science thinking as children explore water travel through play.

Dramatic Play: Métis Travel Exploration



Create an engaging, dramatic play opportunity with a variety of materials for the children to build pretend boats, carts, and snowshoes using cardboard boxes, blocks, loose parts, and open-ended materials. Using their imagination and visual references from the book, children can act out journeys across water, land, and snow. This play encourages creativity, problem-solving, collaboration, and storytelling, while supporting children's understanding of how Métis people in the past adapted their travel methods to different landscapes and seasons.

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Let's Chat About the Book!

Join us on the MNO Education Hub's "ELCC Professionals" discussion area! See you there! Don't have the app? Download it by scanning the QR code.



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Building a Birch Bark Canoe

Check out this 2.5-minute video of a birch bark canoe being built, showing glimpses of the process from start to finish



[CLICK HERE >](#)