



# Family Activities

Title: **Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message**

Author: **Chief Jake Swamp**

Illustrator: **Erwin Printup Jr.**

The feature book is a prayer of the Iroquois Indians, celebrating the precious and rare gift of the natural world and the resources of the earth. On a fall day, LeVar stops to express appreciation for the gifts of the earth. This episode connects to the earth with a visit to a family who grows and harvests cranberries, then on to a pueblo where native artists use clay from the earth to make pottery, and finally to a group of children who are planting trees in their neighborhood. Children sing “Come You Dreamers,” a song about taking care of the earth.

Here are several activities you and your child can do together after watching this episode.

## Personal Garden

Prepare a plot of soil for a garden. Sow the seeds of flowers or vegetables, spelling out your name or your initials.

## Nature Collage

To make a collage with objects from nature, you will need:

- cardboard
- natural items found around your yard or playground such as leaves, pine cones, seeds, weeds, and rocks
- glue
- hole punch
- yarn

Directions:

1. Collect a variety of items that are found in nature.
2. Arrange the items and glue them onto the cardboard. Allow the glue to dry overnight.
3. Punch a hole in each of the top corners. Cut a piece of yarn and tie the ends to the holes.
4. Use the yarn to hang the collage.

To make a collage using photographs of nature, you will need:

- camera
- poster board
- glue



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1. Go on a walk and take photos of interesting things in nature: plants and animals, a field, or a brook.
2. Create a memento of your walk by creating a collage of the printed photos on a poster board.

## Visit Your Community Library

Here is a book you can check out on your next trip to the library:

*A River Ran Wild* by Lynne Cherry