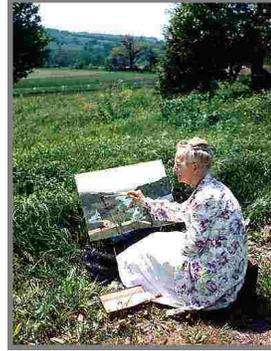


## Grandma Moses



*Haying Time*



*Portrait of Grandma Moses*

### The Artist

#### **Anna Mary Robertson Moses “Grandma Moses”**

Born Easton, New York, 1860; died Hoosick Falls, New York, 1961.

Grandma Moses was born the third of ten children in her family on a rural farm in New York. At the age of 12, she left her family’s farm, and went to work as hired help at a neighboring farm. She married Thomas Moses at 27 and worked as a farm wife in Virginia. She had ten children, five of whom survived past infancy. She helped to support her family by selling various homemade foods from her home. Grandma Moses did not begin painting until she was 78 years old, and was never trained as an artist. She began painting to keep herself occupied when she became arthritic, and could no longer enjoy the needlework she had once been able to do. Louis J. Caldor, a New York collector, discovered Moses’ painting in the window of a drug store. He showed her work to an art dealer named Otto Kallier, and he gave Moses her own exhibit in New York City. Her paintings soon became very popular, and she was well known throughout the world. Grandma Moses painted until a few months before her death at age 101.

### Art Movement

#### Folk Art

Folk Art does not come out of the fine art tradition. Folk artists are typically from rural or pre-industrial societies, and are more closely related to craftsmen than they are to fine artists. Generally, artists of this style have little to no formal training in art. Folk art is characterized by a naive style, in which traditional rules of proportion and perspective are not employed. Closely related terms are Outsider Art, Self-Taught Art, and Naive Art.

### The Artwork

Moses was known for painting scenes of rural American life from memories of her childhood. She showed the pleasures of work and play in a simpler world.

### Discussion Suggestions

#### **Talk about color:**

- *What words would you use to describe the colors in this painting? Bright or dull, happy or sad?*
- *How did the artist change the color to show that some things are farther away than other things?*

**Talk about how realistic the painting is:**

- *What is realistic in this painting?*
- *What is not realistic in this painting?*
- *Does a painting have to be realistic to be a good painting? Why?*

**Talk about the subject of the painting:**

- *What ideas do you think Grandma Moses wanted to express in this painting? Why?*

**Activity Idea****Busy Fold Art Scene:**

- Think of a scene, celebration, or happening with all its details. Think of all the people, places, and things that would be in the scene. For one example, imagine a big birthday party with relatives and friends, gifts, party table, furniture, pets, and maybe even a secret mouse in the corner. Another idea might be to paint a soccer game showing all the players, the field, people watching, trees, birds, and cars parked in the lot nearby. Another idea might be to look at a backyard and draw all the details such as the swing set, the sidewalk, garden, pets, birds in the trees, and every little bug in the grass.
- Draw with a pencil first, if desired, or start right in with markers.
- Draw a very, busy scene with markers.
- Draw some more details in the scene.
- Fill in with watercolor paints, if desired.

**Materials Needed:**

- Markers
- Watercolor paints and brushes
- Pencil
- Large sheet of drawing paper

**Alternative Activities:**

- Grandma Moses Crossword Puzzle.
- Grandma Moses Word Search.