



Activity and Teacher's Guide:

Berry Magic

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Alaska Northwest Books®
0-88240-575-6, \$15.95 HB • 0-88240-576-4, \$8.95 SB
For more information visit: www.terisloat.com

Berry Magic introduces children four years and older to a wonderful tale of a young Yup'ik Eskimo woman who uses her magical powers and four colorful dolls to sweeten wild berries for all future generations. Students will learn more about life in the tundra and the mystical powers it beholds.

Reading/Writing/Language Arts

1. Read *Berry Magic* and answer the following questions:

- Who is the main character of *Berry Magic*?
- Why did the old women not like crowberries very much? If they disliked them so much, why did they pick them?
- What gave Anana the idea for her plan?
- How many different dolls did she make? Which color did which doll represent and what unique materials were they made from?
- Which little girl was at first too shy to come out of the bag? Which berry did she represent? How did Anana finally get her to come out?

2. List all of the Yup'ik words found within *Berry Magic* and what they mean in English. Try to pronounce the words.

3. Try and unscramble these words found within *Berry Magic*.

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Science/Natural History

1. At what time of year do crowberries, cranberries, blueberries, salmonberries, and raspberries ripen?
2. Do they all ripen at the same time? If not when?
3. Can you name the only berry in the world that grows its seeds on the outside? Hint: There are about 200 on every berry!
4. What animals can be found in *Berry Magic*?
 - a. What do these animals eat?
 - b. What colors are they?
 - c. What kind of home do they live in?

Geography

1. The main character of *Berry Magic* is Anana, a young Yup'ik Eskimo woman. Look at a map of Alaska and find where Yup'ik Eskimos live. Try and name all of the other Native groups found in Alaska. Study the differences between the groups as well as their similarities.
2. What is the tundra? What unique features does the tundra have from the rest of Alaska's terrain? What are some advantages and disadvantages of living on the tundra?

Math



1. Which berry (cranberry, blueberry, raspberry) do you think you can fill more of in a cup by number? The least?
 2. Define surface area. Which berry mentioned has the greatest surface area? The smallest?
3. Look at the recipe for Anana's Akutaq. Now you need double the recipe! How much of each ingredient will you need?

Art

1. Make your own berry book! As a class, research as many berries as you can find and catalogue them in a book (Alaska has over 50 different berries)! Draw a detailed picture of each berry as well as some interesting facts such as where they grow, growing season, and some yummy recipes that you find.
2. Make berry doll puppets! *Supplies: fabric pencil or pen, felt, long cardboard cylinder, cardboard scraps, fabric scraps, wool, buttons, glue, scissors*
 - a. Using a student's hand as a guide, draw a three-fingered hand shape onto the felt. Cut out the felt making the piece at least 3cm larger than the student's hand.
 - b. Cut the cardboard cylinder into three pieces; one 7cm long and two 5cm long. Glue the two short pieces to the outer finger and thumb sections inside the 7cm-long cylinder to make the puppet's head.
 - c. Cover the head cylinder with pink felt. Glue on a rolled felt strip for the puppet's nose. Cut out two hand shapes from pink felt and glue them inside the hand cylinder.
 - d. Cut legs and shoes from cardboard and cover in fabric or felt. Glue onto main felt piece.
 - e. Cut clothes from fabric scraps for facial features. Make hair from wool and glue onto the head cylinder. The hair is made by taking a bundle of yarns and plaiting at each end, leaving an unplaited section in the center.



Other Activities

1. Make *Anana's Akutaq* (Eskimo Ice Cream)!

Whip 2 cups of shortening till creamy.
Add 2 cups sugar and whip again.
Add salmonberry juice and whip until fluffy.
Add 4 cups of whitefish*. Mix by hand.
Stir in several cups of cranberries, blueberries,
salmonberries, and raspberries
Place in refrigerator until cold.

*To prepare whitefish:
Catch one whitefish and clean it.
Remove the head and tail, leaving the skin on.
Gently boil the whole fish until tender and flaky
Drain the fish, removing skin and fat, and let it cool.
Squeeze extra moisture from the meat and place in a bowl.
Use your hands to stir and fluff the fish.

2. Make *Spiced Blueberry Jam!*

1½ quart of blueberries
2 tablespoons lemon juice
¼ teaspoon cloves
¼ teaspoon cinnamon
¼ teaspoon allspice
1 package (1¾ oz.) powder fruit pectin
5 cups sugar

Sterilize 8 (6 oz.) jelly jars; keep them in hot water until ready to fill. Wash and drain blueberries. Puree the blueberries in a blender. 1 quart of puree is needed. In a large pan combine puree, lemon juice, cloves, cinnamon, allspice, and fruit pectin, stir to mix well. Over high heat, bring mixture to a full rolling boil; boil 1 minute, stirring constantly. Add sugar all at once. Again bring to a rolling boil; boil 1 minute, stirring constantly. Skim off the foam on the top of the jam. Ladle into hot, sterilized jelly jars and seal.
(Source: www.grandtimes.com)

3. Make *Cranberry Chocolate Ice Cream!*

2 cups fresh or frozen cranberries
½ cup orange juice
½ teaspoon almond extract
1 quart vanilla ice cream, softened
¾ cup semisweet mini chocolate chips

In a medium saucepan over medium heat, cook cranberries and orange juice until the cranberries pop, about 8-10 minutes. Put this mixture into a blender and add almond extract. Coarsely chop in a blender for 3-5 minutes. Place this mixture in the freezer for 10 minutes. Place softened ice cream in a large bowl, fold in cranberry mixture and chocolate chips. Serve immediately or frozen. (Source: www.grandtimes.com)

Interesting Berry Facts!

- If all the blueberries grown in North America in one year were spread out in a single layer, they would cover a four-lane highway stretching from New York to Chicago.
- North America is the world's leading blueberry producer, accounting for nearly 90 percent of world production at the present time.
- Strawberries, blueberries and raspberries are naturally low in fat, a good source of fiber and rich in vitamin C. (Based on a 1 cup serving.)
- Blueberries are a relative of the cranberry and are native to the United States. They are also ranked #1 among fruit and vegetables in antioxidant power which helps prevent heart disease.
- Raspberries are closely related to be blackberry (crowberry) and are native to Europe.

(Source: www.berryburstcheerios.com, www.grandtimes.com)

About the authors

As she did with *The Eye of the Needle* (praised by the *New York Times Book Review*, a *San Francisco Chronicle* Choice, and a Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Picture Book Award winner,) Yup'ik Eskimo elder and storyteller **Betty Huffmon** shared this folktale with author/illustrator **Teri Sloat** who brings it to life in delightful illustrations. Teri has published numerous award-winning books including; *The Hungry Giant of the Tundra* (*San Francisco Chronicle* Holiday Choice), *Dance on a Sealskin* (Parent Council Choice/Bulletin for the Center of Children's Books Choice) and travels the United State presenting at schools and libraries. She is often a featured speaker at conferences for organizations such as the International Reading Association and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Teri and her husband Robert line in Sebastopol, California.



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