

HORSE ROOM
Afternoon Kindergarten
November 2018

After learning about the state of Illinois, we traveled back in time to take a historical look at what life was like before Illinois was a state. The children learned about the first people who lived in our country before we became the United States. We enjoyed listening to some early Native Americans legends. We divided the United States into different areas and made maps of the homes and clothing for each area. Some other projects that were available were making dream catchers, teepee villages, sand paintings, and clothing. We discovered that Native Americans were not just a part of the past, but are also living today. We listened to some music provided by two former Montessori classmates who are Native Americans.

We finished reading about Abraham Lincoln and moved on to a fiction story called, Karen's Witch. Karen is a girl with a big imagination who believes her neighbor is a witch. Ask your child to tell you about the trouble that got her into. We are now reading a book about a drawer of magical things. Your child should be able to tell you about the gloves, robe, and seven league boots. We have been discussing fiction and non-fiction books. Our next chapter book will be a "historical fiction" book called Meet Kirsten. Kirsten arrived in America from Sweden in 1864. She traveled with her family to begin a new life in Minnesota. We will then be learning about the Midwest states.

In Spanish we added words to describe the weather and feelings. We are currently learning food words in Spanish and Sign Language! Next we will be adding names for family members.

In the afternoon we enjoy having large group discussions, refining our problem-solving skills, and collaborating with a fellow kindergartners. Each child has 2- 3 required works each day before choosing their own work. Next week we will next be learning about the Midwest States. Along with group discussions, each day we will practice our writing, coloring, and organizational skills. Your child should be able to tell you an interesting fact about our "State of the Day". When we finish this unit your child will bring home a Midwest folder containing papers to share with you.

Julie Warren