

# LUTHER BURBANK THIRD GRADE CURRICULUM UNIT

## *A Family Tree*

**Key Concept:** Family Trees are used to chart ancestry. Ancestry shows our family lineage and where we came from.

**Objectives:** To recognize through Burbank's Family Tree that his ancestry may have had an influence on his calling to nature. To create a personal Family Tree showing at least three generations of lineage.

### **California Content Standards:**

#### History-Social Science

3.1 Use of maps and charts to organize information about people

3.3 Organization of the sequence of events in local history

Chronological and spatial thinking

Research, evidence, and point of view

**Overview:** Students will explore Burbank's Family Tree and draw conclusions based on the recordings. Students will create their own Family Trees by gathering information from relatives.

**Advance Preparation:** Run several copies of leaf back-line masters on green construction paper. Copy class sets of student pages 3, 4, 5 and 6.

**Materials:** One piece white construction paper per student, overhead transparency page 7, back-line masters pages 6 and 8-10, watercolor paints.

### **Procedure:**

1. Read and discuss student pages 3, 4 and 5. Share background information. Why do you think Burbank chose to spend his life working with nature? Does anything in his lineage point in that direction? Were any of his family members involved in business?
2. Using the overhead, have students choose a trunk, branches, and foliage for you to illustrate. Draw a tree vertically on white construction paper, emphasizing to make the tree as tall as the paper.
3. Using student page 6, have students draw their own Family Trees in the same manner. Watercolor trees.
4. Students select green leaves to fill out at home with parents.
5. When homework is returned, have students cut out the leaves and glue them onto their trees.
6. For an extension activity, have students plot their origins on a huge U.S. map. Be sure to include Burbank's ancestry!

### **A note of caution:**

Creating a Family Tree may be difficult for some children if little information is available, if the child has a blended family, or if the parents choose not to provide information. Be flexible about authenticity, focusing instead on the notion that we all have ancestry and distant relatives that we don't even know about!