

Extensions: Winter, Ice and Snow



Books for Snow Theme

Snow Is Falling by Franklyn M. Branley

Millions of Snowflakes by Mary McKenna Siddals

Sadie and the Snowman by Allen Morgan

Snow Day! by Barbara M. Joosse

The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats

Geraldine's Big Snow by Holly Keller

Owl Moon by Jane Yolen

The Snow Child Retold by Freya Littledale

Mittens by Jan Brett



Winter Songs

I'm a Little Snowman

Sung to: **I'm a Little Tea Pot**

I'm a little snowman short and fat.
Here's my scarf and here's my hat.
When the snow is falling come and play.
Build a snowman every day.



Five Little Snowmen

Sung to: **Five Little Pumpkins**

Five little snowmen sitting on the ground, (Pat hands on floor)
The first one said; "Oh my, aren't we round." (Make circle with arms)
The second one said; "There are snowflakes in the air." (Wiggle fingers above head.)
The third one said; "But we don't care." (Shrug shoulders.)
The fourth one said; "Let's run and run and run. (Pat hands quickly on the floor.)
The fifth one said; "I'm ready for some fun." (Smile)
Whew went the wind (Blow) and out came the sun, (Make circle with arms over head.)
And the five little snowmen knew their fun was done. (Pretend you are melting.)

Option: Make snowmen out of tag board and glue on Popsicle sticks. The children can decorate them and then use them during the song, making them dance.

The Snowkey Pokey

You put your right mitten in,
You take your right mitten out,
You put your right mitten in and you shake it all about.
You do the snowkey pokey and you turn yourself around.
That's what it's all about.

You put your left mitten in . . .
You put your right boot in . . .
You put your left boot in . . .
You put your hat in . . .
You put your snowself in . . .



Finger Plays and Chants

A Carrot Nose

A chubby little snowman had a carrot for a nose
Along came a bunny and what do you suppose?
That hungry little bunny was looking for his lunch...
And he ATE that snowman's nose ... nibble nibble ...
CRUNCH CRUNCH.



The kids love this if you add hand movements - be creative!!

10 Little Snowballs

Snow fell last night and it fell so hard, when I looked out my window, it covered up my yard.

I made 10 little snowballs and I put them in a line. One fell off the wall, and then there were 9.

9 little snowballs, I put them on the gate. 1 fell off and then there were 8.

8 little snowballs, I hit 1 up towards heaven. It came down, "Splat!" and then there were 7.

7 little snowballs, I hit 1 with a stick. It broke in little pieces and then there were 6.

6 little snowballs, all lined up side by side. My dog stole 1 and then there were 5.

5 little snowballs, I took them to the store. 1 fell off my sled, so then there were 4.

4 little snowballs, underneath a tree. I threw 1 at a monster, then there were 3.

Tall Then Small

Once there was a snowman, snowman, snowman,
Once there was a snowman tall, tall, tall. (reach to the ceiling)
Then the sun it melted, melted, melted,
Then the sun it melted small, small, small. (pretend to melt.)

Snow Is Falling

To foster rhythm, do this rhyme either with our rhythm sticks or with our hands:

Snow is falling, falling down; Snow is falling hit the ground. (Move hands down, wiggling fingers like snowflakes)
Flurries, flurries (slow beat, slowly said)
Snowing, snowing (faster)
Blizzard (Loud and very fast)

The Snowman

I am a snowman made of snow (stand still)
I stand quite still at 10 below.
With a big long carrot for a nose, (indicate body part)
And worn out shoes to make my toes.

I have two apples for my eyes,
And a woolen coat about this size. (measure)
I have a scarf that's warm and red. (circle arms around neck)
And a funny hat upon my head. (touch hands to head)
The sun is coming out, Oh dear! (make circle overhead w/arms)
The sun is melting me I fear (begin to sink to floor)



Five Fat Snowmen

Five little snowmen On a winter's day
The first one said, "Wake up, so we can play!"
The second one said, "Let's stomp on the ground."
The third one said, "Let's roll around."
The fourth one said, "Let's run and run and run."
The fifth one said, "I'm afraid I feel the sun."
"Oh dear," cried the snowmen, as they looked toward the sky.
And the five melting snowmen waved a fond goodbye.

Have the children act out the words with appropriate movements.)



(Exploratory) Art Ideas



Let the children experiment with using sugar, flour, white sand, salt, laundry soap, egg shells that are broken and dried, anything you can think of to make pictures of snow scenes.

Use equal parts of shaving cream (non-menthol) and Elmer's glue to make winter scenes. It has a "puffy" effect. This can be used for children to finger paint on large circles to make a class snow person - and then add (and label) the face, clothing, etc.

Snow Paint: In a plastic cup, pour white tempera paint. Add gold or silver glitter until the consistency is thick like snow. Allow the children to use this to paint snow scenes.

Dip cheerios or wagon wheel pasta into glue and then silver glitter for the children to use as snowflakes.

Take mini pretzels. (Typically 4 per child) Pour white paint into baggies, or pie tin and coat with paint. Allow to dry thoroughly. When dry, children can glue pretzels corners to corners/points to points...to form a "snowflake." This can be used to decorate a class mural/snow scene or made into ornaments to send home as presents.

Let the children dip empty thread spools into white paint. They can use them to print snowflakes - they show up best on black or dark blue construction paper. They look just like real snowflakes.

Ice Painting! Using an ordinary ice tray (or pop sickle molds), freeze colored ice cubes. Fill with water and add food coloring in any colors that the children choose. Lay toothpicks or Popsicles sticks in the water, and freeze overnight. Next day, have the children hold the colored ice cube by the stick and swipe over white construction paper. The ice slowly melts leaving the beautiful colors behind. The children love swirling the ice and watching the colors blend.

Option: Freeze plain water into cubes, and let them paint on paper sprinkled with tempera powder (or jello crystals).

Use three white cupcake liners to "build" a snowman and then provide scrap materials or other miscellaneous items for children to embellish their snow people. Let them sprinkle a bit of white or clear glitter on the snow person. Have children tell something about their snow person and write it on the paper. (Key words can be printed and displayed in the art and/or writing center.)

Let the children cut or draw a snowflake, snowball or snowperson, using heavy paper. Let them paint it with cool whip topping to symbolize snow. When dried, it leaves an interesting 3D image.

Epsom salt snowflakes: Let the children draw snowflake shapes on light blue construction paper with white chalk. Mix Epsom salt and a little amount of water in bowl. It should be frothy. Paint salt onto the snowflake. See what happens in several days.



Ivory flakes can be mixed with warm water -- using an egg beater works best. This can be used on black paper to make snow pictures.

Take toilet paper tubes and help the children make different length snips at the end of the tube. Have them bend the ends back so they are all flared out. The children can dip the flared edges in white paint, the tube make a great holder. When done sprinkle with silver glitter. It looks like snow flakes. Then with all the different lengths made in the cuts they are all different and unique.

Cut a bell pepper in half and then use the end to dip in white paint to make prints with.

Snowman Puppet: Give each child two small paper plates. Help them staple them along one edge of each plate (one plate above the other in a snowman shape). Let the children choose to use a pattern or design a hat, scarf, mittens, and boots using construction paper or other items. They can glue these on the plates. They can use buttons or crumpled pieces of black tissue paper for eyes. A small piece of orange pipe cleaner can be used as a carrot nose. They can add other accessories as they like using markers, crayons, twigs, construction paper, etc. When the snowmen are decorated, help the children staple half of a small paper plate at the top edge to the back (top also) of each snowman. This makes a little "pocket" for each child's hand, so now it's a puppet.

Have the students take home a white construction paper snowman with a note asking parents and their child to work decorate their snowman in any creative way they want. They can use anything from stickers to marshmallows, cereal, twigs, candy, raisins, plastic forks (for arms), pom poms, etc...



Web Resources

Enchanted Learning: <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/winter/>

Perpetual Preschool: http://www.perpetualpreschool.com/preschool_themes/ice/ice.htm

Jan Brett Activity Resources: http://www.janbrett.com/activities_pages.htm

First-school: <http://www.first-school.ws/theme/animals.htm>