

Story Hour Kit



FIRST SNOW

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Snowflakes
falling!
What a
treat!

The first snow of the season is here! Enjoy all the fun activities the snow brings: bundle up and race outside to build a snowman, make snow angels, and go sledding with friends. At the end of the day, head back inside and warm up with hot chocolate.

Make every day a snow day with this perfect rhyming read-aloud!

Use the fun activities in this kit to celebrate the wintery wonders of the season in your classroom, library, bookstore, or right at home!

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The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) applicable to activities in this kit are noted throughout. For more information on the Common Core, visit corestandards.org. Learn more about the NGSS at nextgenscience.org.

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Discussion Questions

❄️ Look closely at the title and cover illustration. Describe the setting for this book (where and when it takes place). Give reasons for your answer.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7

❄️ The first illustration in the story shows two children looking out of a window. How do you think that they feel about the first snow of the season? Why might they feel this way?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7

❄️ What do you notice about how the text is written? Do the characters have names? Does the author include dialogue? Why do you think that the author wrote her book in this style?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.5

❄️ What activities do the children participate in on the first snowy day of the season?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1

❄️ What other games and sports could children play on a snowy day that are not included in this story?

❄️ Which snowy day activities require the children to work as a team? Which activities could they do on their own?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1

❄️ After a long day of playing in the snow, what do the children do? How do you think they feel at the end of the day?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1;

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1

❄️ The author describes the children as pondering snowfall when they are tucked into bed. What do you think that the children are hoping to do the next day?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1;

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1;

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1



The CCSS and NGSS aligned discussion questions and activities in this kit were created by Leigh Courtney, Ph.D. She teaches in the Global Education program at a public elementary school in San Diego, California. She holds both master's and doctoral degrees in education with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction.

Activities



Winter Wardrobe

Having the proper clothes for the weather helps make for fun in the snow. Design two paper dolls ready for a snowy day. Look back through the book to read and see what the kids put on before they go to play in the snow. Draw your paper dolls on construction paper and either draw the winter clothing or cut construction paper clothing to add to your paper dolls.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7

Snowflake Symmetry

All snowflakes are symmetrical, but no two snowflakes are exactly alike. Give students access to paper, glue, cotton swabs, craft sticks, and dried pasta. Invite them to each create two different 8-sided or 12-sided symmetrical snowflakes. Mount their pairs of snowflakes on blue construction paper.

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.K.G.B.5; CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.1.G.A.1; CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.2.G.A.1; NGSS K-2-ETS1-2

Read Aloud

Write each two- or three-word phrase from *First Snow* on a sentence strip. Arrange the sentence strips in a pocket chart in the order in which the phrases appear in the story. Once the story has been reconstructed, practice reading the phrases as a class. Try variations of the choral reading by assigning different parts of the story to be read by different people. Encourage students to read their parts with expression.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.10; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.10; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.10

Snowball Science

If you are lucky enough to live in a place where it snows, go outside and collect three snowballs. If you don't have snow at the ready, create homemade snowballs out of crushed ice. Place your three snowballs in three different containers: one that is freezer safe, one for the refrigerator, and one for room temperature. Place one container in each of the following places in your house or school: freezer, refrigerator, and countertop. Predict which snowball will melt the fastest and which will melt the slowest. Check on your snowballs every thirty minutes to observe the changes. Note: Some snowballs may need to sit overnight before final results can be observed. What conclusions can you draw from your snowball science experiment? **NGSS (1-PS4-2); NGSS (2-PS1-1)**

NAME: _____

Rhyme Time

First Snow is a rhyming picture book. Hunt through the story and find pairs of words that rhyme. Is there a pattern to where the rhyming words appear in the text? List the pairs of rhyming words. **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.K.2.A**



Hot Chocolate

Creamy chocolate—warm, not cold.

What better way to warm up on a snowy day than with a nice mug of steaming hot chocolate? With an adult's help, make this tasty treat!

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.K.MD.A.1



HOT CHOCOLATE

Ingredients

½ cup sugar

⅓ cup hot water

¼ cup cocoa powder

4 cups milk

Dash of salt

¾ teaspoon vanilla extract

Instructions

Mix sugar, cocoa, and salt in a saucepan. Add water and whisk to combine. Cook over medium heat, stirring often, until mixture comes to a boil. Boil for 2 minutes. Reduce heat and stir in milk. Heat through, but don't allow mixture to boil. Remove from heat and add vanilla. Pour into mugs and top with whipped cream!

Serves 6.

NAME: _____

First Snow Favorites



If you live in a snowy place or would like to spend some time in the snow, what would your favorite “first snow” activity be?

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.K.MD.B.3; CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.1.MD.C.4; CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.3.MD.B.3

Poll your classmates—which of the following is their favorite snowy day activity? Record their answers with tally marks:

Sledding _____

Making snow angels _____

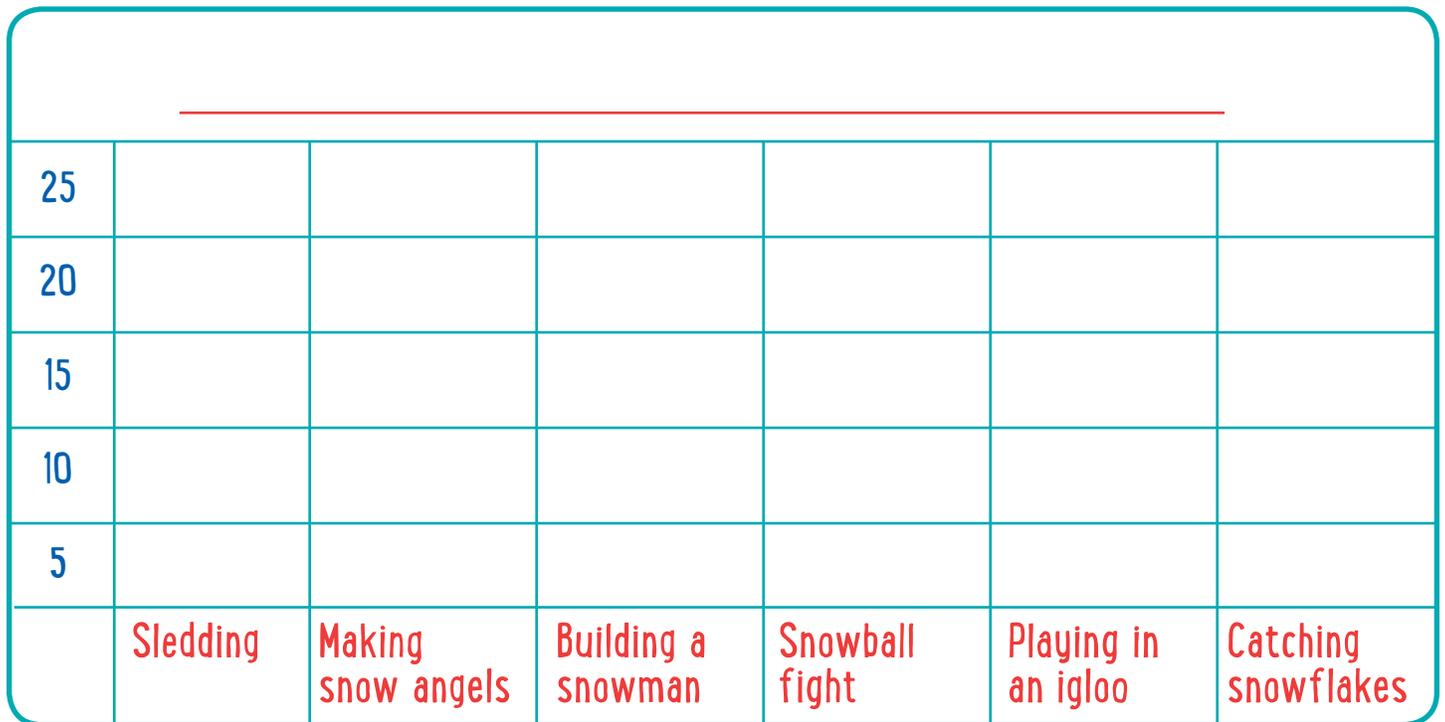
Building a snowman _____

Snowball fight _____

Playing in an igloo _____

Catching snowflakes _____

Record your data on a bar graph. Give your bar graph a title.



Write three math statements about your bar graph.

Snowman Craft

Supplies needed

- 1 white crew-length sock
- 3 rubber bands
- Bag of uncooked rice
- Measuring cups
- Measuring tape
- Fabric scraps
- Assorted buttons
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers



Instructions

Cut off the foot portion of the sock and set it aside. Measure the lengths of both sections and record your measurements.

Turn the top portion of the sock inside out and tightly secure a rubber band to close the cut opening. Turn the sock right-side-out again and position the closed end at the bottom.

Measure the rice starting at $\frac{1}{4}$ cup increments and determine how much rice is needed to fill your sock, packing it down as you go. Record your measurements. Tightly secure a rubber band at the top of the sock to close it and add another rubber band about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way to the top to create your snowman's head. Measure the length of each section and record your measurements.

Decorate your snowman by cutting the fabric scraps to make a scarf for his neck, glue buttons on his belly, and create a face with small buttons or markers. Make a hat for your snowman using the foot portion of the sock. Compare your various measurements with a classmate's.

Makes 1 snowman.



CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.1.MD.A.2; CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.2.MD.A.1; CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.2.MD.A.4

Words That Sparkle Like Snowflakes



The vocabulary in *First Snow* is rich with expressive words. Write a synonym for each of the words from the story.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.K.5; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.1.5; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.2.5















