

40 IDEAS FOR WINTER FUN

SCIENCE

1. Place an ice cube or snowball in a large bowl. Set it in the middle of a table and observe how it melts (top first, bottom first, quickly, slowly, etc.). Write down your observations.
2. Make a snow gauge by marking inch lines on a plastic bottle or coffee can and setting it outside to catch snow.
3. Blow bubbles outside when it is very cold and see what happens.
4. Children predict what will melt ice the fastest; salt or water or both. Set out three pie pans of ice. Salt will be added to the first. Water will be added to the second. Both salt and water will be added to the third. Make a chart for the children's predictions and for the outcomes of their experiment.
5. Give everyone an ice cube and see who can find ways to melt them the fastest!
6. Place some paper or fabric in the freezer. Bring this fabric/paper outside and catch snowflakes and look at the unique shapes. Discuss how each one is different but beautiful – just like people!
7. Suspend an ice cube in a glass of water. Have the children take a piece of string, lay it across the ice and try to pick up the ice with the string. They won't be able to do this. Tell them to lay the piece of string on the ice again and have them sprinkle a pinch of salt over the string. Count to 10 and lift the string. Magic. It sticks!
8. Fill a bucket with ice water and have the children stick their hands in it. It will be cold, take a plastic bag and put Crisco in it, put another bag inside this one so the children's hands don't get dirty. Have them put their hand in the bag and stick it back in the ice water. It won't be cold because the Crisco serves as a layer of fat. Talk about how a layer of fat keeps the animals like penguins and polar bears warm.

LANGUAGE ARTS

9. **Write a story about a snowy day.**
10. **Sit in a circle and make up a story about a snow man. The first person starts the story and then you continue around the circle with each person adding something to the story. Write the story down as it unfolds.**
11. **Write a poem about snowflakes using descriptive words.**

ARTS AND CRAFTS

12. **Draw out snowflake designs on wax paper using glue, sprinkle on glitter. Peel off your snowflake once the glue is dried and place it on your windows!**
13. **Paint a snow scene on light blue paper using glue. Sprinkle the glue with glitter or salt and let dry.**
14. **Trace your winter boots, gloves, mittens, hats and color them.**
15. **Draw a winter scene on black construction paper using white chalk.**
16. **Cut snowflakes out of coffee filters or paper and hang them around the room.**
17. **Make a large snowman indoors by stuffing large, white garbage bags with newspaper.**
18. **Make a winter picture by gluing Honeycomb cereal on construction paper to look like snowflakes. Paint the snowflakes with white paint after they have been glued down and sprinkle with glitter.**
19. **Make snowman prints using a marshmallow dipped into white paint and pressed on dark colored paper.**
20. **Make your own puffy, snow paint by mixing equal parts of glue and shaving cream.**

21. **Cut out a snowflake and place it on a piece of paper. Take some paint and paint over the snowflake. Lift the snowflake and add glitter.**
22. **Dip ice cubes into paint and slide them around on paper to make a water color picture.**
23. **Make a collage of white materials that have different textures. Use things like dollies, cotton balls, coffee liners, dried beans, felt, yarn, Styrofoam, and tissue paper.**
24. **Knead iridescent glitter into white play dough for a glistening, snowy effect. Provide a snowman cookie cutter or a round cutter that children can use to create their own snowman forms. Set out a variety of decorative items, such as rocks and twigs, to embellish the snow figures.**

JUST FOR FUN

25. **Play pin the nose on the snowman game. Blindfolded, see who can pin a paper carrot nose closest to the nose on the snowman.**
26. **Make a tent using blankets draped over a table. Pretend it is a bear cave and you are a bear getting ready to hibernate.**
27. **Paint snow using food coloring or tempera paint mixed with water. Put the mixture in a squirt bottle and have a blast.**
28. **Make a snowstorm inside by tearing up several pieces of white paper. Place them on a sheet or towel, have everyone grab around the edge, and toss the snow into the air.**
29. **Place Styrofoam balls on spoons and try to carry these mini "snowballs" across the room without dropping them!**
30. **Pretend you're a snowflake. Put on some soft, soothing music and gently float around the room.**
31. **Hide a mitten in the room and let others try to find it.**

32. **Gather all of the children's mittens or shoes and place them in a pile. Have the children match the correct shoes/mittens together.**
33. **Go outside and make snow angels.**
34. **Freeze small toys in ice cube trays and in various size containers and place them in the sensory table. Give the children plastic and wood mallets and tell each of them to chip away the ice to find out what is inside.**

YUMMY WINTER TREATS

35. **Make ice cube popsicles by freezing juice in ice cube trays and inserting toothpicks or popsicle sticks cut in half.**
36. **Make Snowman Soup by putting hot chocolate mix into a cup. Add 2 Hershey kisses, 1 small candy cane, hot water and stir. Add 1 ice cube and 3 marshmallow snow balls. A great afternoon treat!**
37. **Build a snowman snack by using marshmallows, pretzel sticks, chocolate chips. You can use peanut butter to hold them together.**
38. **Make Banana Blizzards by blending together one cup cold milk with two or three bananas in a blender. Ask the children to count aloud as you add ten snowballs (scoops of vanilla frozen yogurt) to the blender. Then invite the children to turn the blender on and off again to create a blizzard. Serves about 10 children.**
39. **Make s'mores by putting a piece of chocolate and a marshmallow between 2 graham crackers and microwaving for a few seconds.**
40. **Make Snow Cream by collecting clean snow in a large bowl. Add approximately one cup of milk, ½ cup of sugar and some vanilla extract and mix together. It will be about the same texture as a milkshake!**