

Topic

Winter activity: Let's make snowflakes!

Learning outcomes

- Listen to a Christmas-themed story
- Develop winter vocabulary (winter, cold, clouds, water, freeze, snowflake, crystal)
- Follow English instructions to learn how to make a snowflake by folding and cutting paper
- Make a Christmas decoration or card using the snowflakes

Age group

Young learners aged 5-8, 9-12 years old

Level

CEF level A1 – A2

Time

50 minutes. This could be quicker with older students if you have a classroom assistant to support individual learners.

Materials

- Story from Learn English Kids: The Snowman (requires Internet access):
<https://youtu.be/3wPSRRU14f8?si=CFDPSu6hNrzv6IBK>
- Presentation – This can replace the quiz worksheet and snowflake instructions
- 'The Snowman Story Quiz' (one copy per team).
- Snowman worksheet – For A2 learners
- Story transcript (1 copy if reading story rather than showing video)
- 'Make a snowflake' instructions and patterns (1 copy per student or group)
- 'Make a snowflake' step by step photo instructions (to use to make an example for the class)
- White paper, pencils and scissors for each pupil (optional: contrasting coloured card to make Christmas cards.
- String or yarn, drawing pins and pegs to hang up snowflakes

Introduction

In this lesson students watch a story about snow before learning how to fold and cut paper in patterns to make snowflakes. These can be used to decorate the classroom or to make a card to celebrate the holiday season. Extend the lesson by making a snowman with your students. Use the winter colouring page as a festive way to keep early finishers of other activities busy.

Procedure

Before the lesson	<p>Prepare all the worksheets</p> <p>If you have time, use the 'Make a snowflake step by step photo instructions' to make an example snowflake for the class</p> <p>Have paper, pencils and scissors ready for the craft activity (and card or string – see extra optional activities, below).</p> <p>Attach a length of string to the wall to make a 'washing line'. Attach enough pegs for each learner to hang up their snowflake. It should be easy for learners to reach.</p>
1. Warmer (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Either display slide 2 or draw a circle on the board and write Winter in the middle. In lines extending out from the circle write the following categories: weather, clothes, activities and festivals. • Ask children to brainstorm words for each category, for example: <p>Weather: cold, cloudy, windy, rainy, snowy.</p> <p>Clothes: coat, mittens, scarf, hat, umbrella.</p> <p>Activities: make a snowman, go skiing / sledding, play inside.</p> <p>Festivals: Christmas, New Year, Winter solstice.</p> <p>Ask: Have you ever seen snow? Where? Does it snow where you live?</p> <p>If you have internet access and a screen in your classroom:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell your students that they are going to watch a story about snow while doing a quick team quiz. <p>If you don't have internet access and a screen in your classroom:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell your students that they are going to listen to the teacher reading a story about snow while doing a quick team quiz.

<p>2. Listening (10 minutes)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put students into teams of three-four pupils. If you have a projector display slide 3 and elicit from learners what they can see in the photo (a boy; girl; snowman; trees). Give each team the The Snowman Story Quiz worksheet. Or display slides 4 and 5 and give each team a piece of paper to write their answers. Do Question 1 as an example (snow) with the whole class. Students watch the story and circle or write the correct answers. If you don't have Internet access read the story out. <p>Answers</p> <p>1. snow, 2. dances, 3. Eddie, 4. a big and a small snowball, 5. snow, 6. a hat and a scarf, 7. sun.</p> <p>Note: If using the story worksheet from LearnEnglish Kids, complete the story ordering activity, then leave the word search and snowman activity to do after you have finished the craft activity.</p> <p>These activities also work well to keep early finishers busy (for younger learners you could use the Winter colouring activity for this purpose – see the link in optional activities, below).</p> <p>Tip: You could ask learners to predict what will happen in the story before watching or listening.</p>
<p>3. Listening and lead-in to craft activity (10 minutes)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students watch or listen to the story again. Pause when the snowman makes snowflakes (00:44). The story text is: Silver crystal snowflakes filled the sky. It was so beautiful. If you are using the video, pause on the falling snowflakes (00:46). Ask What are they? Snowflakes! They're water crystals. How many points have they got? That's right, six. Say 'Let's make snowflakes!'
<p>4. Craft activity (20 minutes)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide each student or table the How to make a snowflake worksheet. These instructions are also on slides 6 and 7. If possible, make a snowflake yourself while the class watches, before handing out the paper, pencils and scissors. As each learner finishes their snowflake ask them to write their name and attach it to the 'washing line' using a peg. You can display slide 8.

	<p>Interesting fact: It is true that every snowflake is different, although there are 35 possible patterns from which the crystals are formed!</p>
Optional extra activities	<p>Glue the snowflakes on coloured card to make a Christmas or Yule card. You could add white glitter to make them sparkle!</p> <p>Snowman craft and Winter colouring activity (for younger pupils): https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/crafts/snowman https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/colouring/winter</p> <p>You could use the worksheet for The Snowman story with older pupils</p>

Contributed by

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