

Topic

Winter activity: Let's make snowflakes!

Aims

- To present snow vocabulary through a Christmas-themed story
- To present snow/winter vocabulary (winter, cold, clouds, water, freeze, snowflake, crystal)
- To use English instructions to learn how to make a snowflake by folding and cutting paper
- To make a Christmas or Yule card or to decorate the classroom using the snowflakes
- To encourage students to appreciate one of the many ways water changes to make our planet habitable

Age group

Young learners aged 8-12 years old

Level

CEF level A1 – A2

Time

50 - 60 minutes

Materials

- Story from Learn English Kids: The Snowman <https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/short-stories/the-snowman>
- 'The Snowman Story Quiz' worksheet (one copy per team). Or print the story activity: <https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/sites/kids/files/attachment/short-stories-the-snowman-worksheet.pdf>
- 'Make a snowflake' instructions and patterns (1 copy per student or table)
- 'Make a snowflake' step by step photo instructions (to use to make an example for the class, or to project on the board)
- White paper, pencils and scissors for each pupil (optional: contrasting coloured card to make Christmas / Yule cards; string or yarn to hang the snowflakes from the ceiling and walls of your classroom)

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>Photocopy the ‘<i>The Snowman Story Quiz</i>’ worksheet (1 per team)</p> <p>If you wish to extend the lesson use the worksheet that comes with the story (see the link in materials, above).</p> <p>Photocopy the ‘<i>How to make a snowflake</i>’ worksheet (1 for each group).</p> <p>If you have time, use the ‘<i>Make a snowflake step by step photo instructions</i>’ to make an example snowflake for the class, or project the photo instructions on the board during the activity.</p> <p>Have paper, pencils and scissors ready for the craft activity (and card or string – see extra optional activities, below).</p> <p>Download the text version of <i>The Snowman</i> story from the LearnEnglish Kids website: https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/short-stories/the-snowman</p>
1. Warmer (5-10 minutes)	<p>Draw a circle on the board and write <i>Winter</i> in the middle. In lines extending out from the circle write the following categories: <i>weather, clothes, activities</i> and <i>festivals</i>. Ask children to brainstorm words for each category, for example:</p> <p><i>Weather: cold, cloudy, windy, rainy, snowy;</i></p> <p><i>Clothes: coat, mittens, scarf, hat, umbrella;</i></p> <p><i>Activities: make a snowman, go skiing / sledding, play inside;</i></p> <p><i>Festivals: Christmas, New Year, Winter solstice.</i></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> <p>Tell your students that they are going to watch a story about snow while doing a quick team quiz.</p> <p>If you don’t have internet access and a screen in your classroom:</p> <p>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 (5-10 minutes)	<p>Put students into teams of three-four pupils. Give each team the <i>The Snowman Story Quiz</i> worksheet (or project the quiz on the board and give each team a piece of paper to write their answers). Question 1 is the example (snow) and should be done as a class.</p> <p>Students watch the story and circle the correct answers.</p> <p>Answers to the quiz: 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>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</p>

	<p>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>
3. Listening and lead-in to craft activity (5 minutes)	<p>Students watch or listen to the story again.</p> <p>Pause when the snowman makes snowflakes (00:44). The story text is: <i>Silver crystal snowflakes filled the sky. It was so beautiful.</i></p> <p>If you are using the video, pause on the falling snowflakes (00:46). Ask <i>What are they? Snowflakes! They're water crystals. How many points have they got? That's right, six. Say 'Let's make snowflakes!'</i></p>
4. Instructions for craft activity (5-10 minutes)	<p>Provide each student or table the <i>How to make a snowflake</i> worksheet. Go through the instructions by projecting the <i>How to make a snowflake: step by step with photos</i> on the board.</p> <p>If possible, make a snowflake yourself while the class watches, before handing out the paper, pencils and scissors.</p>
5. Craft activity (10-15 minutes)	<p>Hand out the paper, pencils and scissors, monitoring students as they make their snowflakes. Children choose one of the three patterns provided. If they want to, they can make more snowflakes, using the patterns to make different designs.</p> <p><i>Interesting fact:</i> <i>It is true that every snowflake is different, although there are 35 possible patterns from which the crystals are formed!</i></p>
Optional extra activities	<p>Get children to draw and cut out their own designs. See how many different snowflakes you can make!</p> <p>Decorate the classroom with your snowflakes.</p> <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 <i>The Snowman</i> story with older pupils: https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/sites/kids/files/attachment/short-stories-the-snowman-worksheet.pdf</p>

Contributed by

Karen Elliot