



Playdatebox

VOLUME 12

SNOW

PLAYDATEBOX.COM BUDDY BOX NEWSLETTER



CELEBRATE SNOW!

EVEN IF YOU LIVE WHERE IT NEVER SNOWS, YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE FUN LEARNING ABOUT WHAT CAUSES IT!

AN INTRODUCTION TO FREEZING, MELTING, AND THE STRUCTURE OF CRYSTALS!

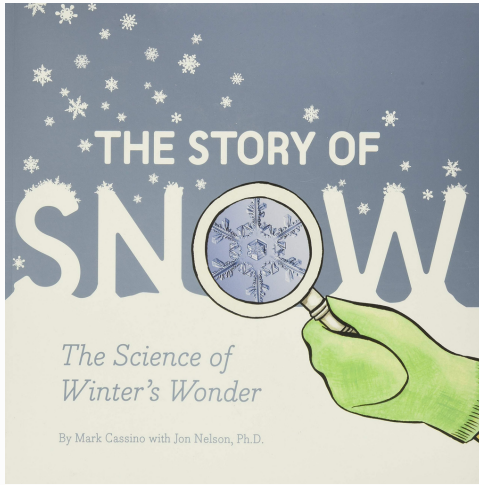
DON'T FORGET TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL IDEAS: [PLAYDATEBOX.COM/SNOW](https://playdatebox.com/snow)

WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

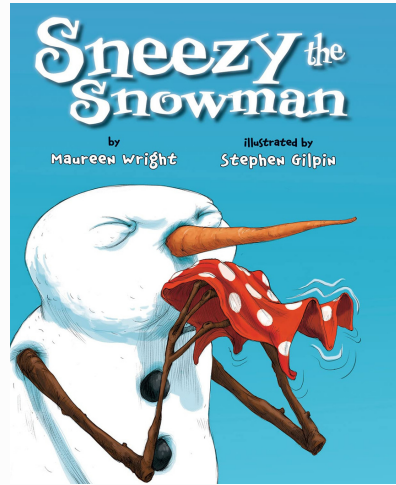
Build your own Playdatebox to have on hand when the grandkids visit (or ship one to them for remote play):

- **A favorite picture book about snow:** We've made you a list of several we recommend!
- **A Snowman Freezing and Melting Kit:** Cut some simple snowman decorating shapes from craft foam using our pattern, then freeze your own snowman.
- **Snow Slime:** One of our winter favorites!
- **Freezing and Melting Experiments:** Some ideas for science and STEM work
- **Sneezy The Snowman Hot Chocolate Kit:** Make a snowman with marshmallows and let him go hot-tubbing in your homemade hot chocolate.

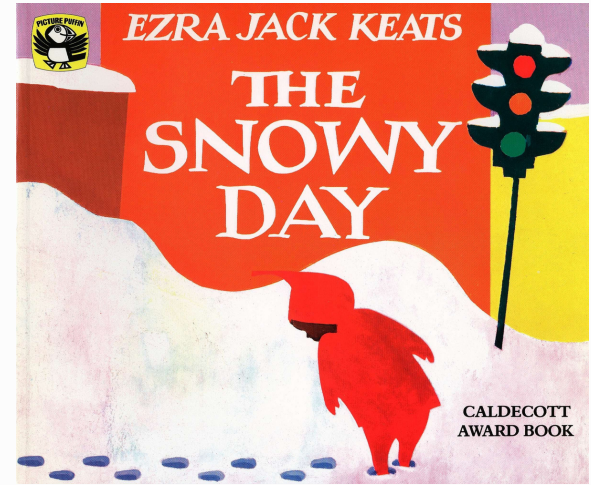
FAVORITE BOOKS ABOUT SNOW



5-8 years



3-7 years



2-5 years

Playdateboxes are also designed for remote play with a grandparent or other adult. Play side-by-side even if you can't be in the same room. Visit <https://playdatebox.com/snow>

Playdate #1

Read a Favorite Picture Book

We've chosen several fun books you might want to read with your playdate buddies:

The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter's Wonder: An award-winning book that teaches the science of how snow crystals form.

Sneezy the Snowman: A delightful picture book about a snowman who loves hot chocolate and hot tubs, and the ingenious kids who figure out a way to help him warm up without melting.

The Snowy Day: A timeless classic and Caldecott Award winner that should be in every multi-cultural children's library.

Playdate #2

Snowman Freezing Kit

Using the pattern on the next page, set your grandchild to work making an outfit for a snowman out of craft foam. Find sticks for arms and add googly eyes. Put your snowman into a freezable container and fill it with water. Check him every few hours and watch what happens to the water!



"Freezy" the Snowman

Use the templates below to cut out felt shapes for your "melting snowman"

Materials:

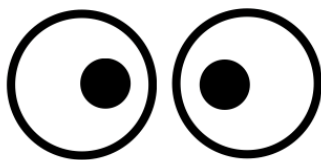
- Felt (suggested colors: White (eyeballs), orange (nose), brown (stick arms) multi-colors for buttons, scarf and hat.
- Scissors
- Markers
- Disposable food storage container (any size)
- Water



Directions:

- Using the templates provided below, cut 2 eyeballs, 3 buttons, 1 nose, 1 scarf, 1 hat, 2 stick arms.
- Draw pupils on the eyeballs, and any other details on the other pieces as desired
- Create a "snowman" by placing all the felt pieces on the bottom of a disposable food storage container.
- Note: Use googly eyes, a small carrot, real buttons, and small twigs for arms in lieu of the felt pieces.
- Fill the container with water. (Your felt pieces may float, that's OK!)
- Place the container in a freezer (or outside if it's below freezing) until the water has frozen to a solid block of ice.
- Remove "Freezy" from the freezer and see how long it takes for him to melt. You could use a stopwatch/timer to see how long it takes. Family members can make "predictions" about how long it will take for him to melt. See if you can find ways to "speed" up the melting process. Talk about concepts such as heat, freeze, cold, melt.

EYEBALLS



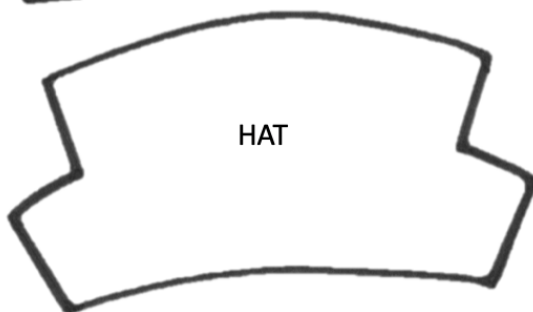
STICK ARMS



BUTTONS
+



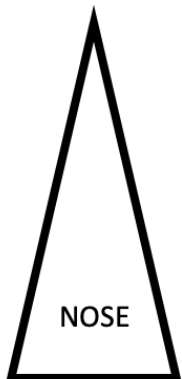
HAT



SCARF



NOSE



Playdate #3

Make A Snow Sensory Bin

Try some easy freezing and melting experiments using a bin of freshly fallen snow.

Prep Time 5 minutes

You'll need

- A shallow plastic bin or large mixing bowl
- A few kitchen utensils for digging
- A spray bottle filled with warm water
- Toy cars, waterproof toy people or animals

Instructions

We used a bin of snow and just let our curiosity run wild.

- Try squirting the snow with warm water to see what happens.
- Heat up some of your snow with a blow dryer (adult supervision required).
- Squirt a little bit of colored water onto your snow
- Put on a pair of gloves and make roads and tunnels.
- Use kitchen utensils to dig and pack snow.
- Make a mini snowman or pack snow into shapes and cut it with cookie cutters
- Put some snow into a pan on the stove and watch what happens when you heat it up.

How to Do This Remotely:

Grandma or Grandpa can enjoy playing along with their own bin of snow.



**Mother Nature will
provide the
supplies!**



Playdate #4

Make Fluffy Snow Slime

This fun concoction is adapted from a recipe on lookwerelearning.com

Prep Time 15 minutes

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup white school glue
- 2 Tablespoons artificial snow mix (no water added yet)
- 1 1/2 cups foam shaving cream (avoid the menthol kind if kids are sensitive to odors)
- 1-2 Tablespoons contact lens solution
- 1 teaspoon baking soda

Instructions

1. In a large bowl, add the glue, shaving cream, contact lens solution, and baking soda, and artificial snow.
2. Mix together with a wooden spoon until mixture pulls away from the sides of the bowl. If it remains too sticky, add more contact lens solution 1 teaspoon at a time.
3. Remove the mixture from the bowl and knead with your hands until smooth.

How to Do This Remotely:

If you are a little brave and the grandchildren have a willing grownup supervising on their end of the call, this project is mondo fun over a Zoom call!

Because instant snow and contact solution aren't in every pantry, you can purchase small empty containers at a dollar store to fill up with ingredients from your own stash and mail them. (Or, send needed supplies via your Amazon.com account. We pre-measure all of the ingredients before we ship them. Tape all lids closed and enclose everything in a zip-top bag. You can purchase shaving cream in travel sizes.



This stuff is so fluffy, you will want your own batch!





Resources:

Where to Find It:

You'll find links to all of the resources mentioned in this newsletter at [Playdatebox.com/snow](https://playdatebox.com/snow)

Instant Snow Powder

Also called artificial snow, this concoction is usually made with Sodium Polyacrylate, and you can find it in craft shops and even department stores. We keep a jar on hand in the Grandma Pantry because it's fun to play with all by itself, even if you aren't making slime. Adult supervision is required! Visit playdatebox.com/penguins for more instant snow fun!

Playdates with Older Kids

Frozen Bubbles



If you happen to live in Canada, or 5-degree weather is the norm in winter where you live, you can go outside on a frigid day and freeze your own bubble. Use regular old bubble solution and carefully transfer your bubble from your wand to the snow.

If you prefer to stay indoors in that kind of weather or live in a more tropical climate, you can find lots of these images on YouTube and Instagram. I can't wait to try this out with the grandkids someday!

You'll find all kinds of melting and freezing science experiments online. Try a couple with the older grandkids. Homemade ice cream is always a big hit!

Playdate #5

Hot Cocoa Melting Snowman



After you read *Sneezy the Snowman* together, this project will make even more sense. This hot-tubbing snowman can help extend your conversation about freezing and melting, and he's easy to make.

You'll need

- marshmallows
- pretzel sticks
- a tube of dark decorator icing (or some melted chocolate chips dabbed on with a toothpick)
- a candy corn
- Hot chocolate mix
- A large microwave-safe mug or cup

How to Do This Remotely

Gather ingredients on both sides of your call and work together to assemble a few marshmallow snowmen. What else melts in a warm liquid?

Playdate #6

Snow Painting



If you happen to live in an area that gets snow, this fun activity gives you a painting canvas as big as all outdoors.

Using small squirt bottles — we used some from our tie-dye stash — add warm water, and then mix in a few drops of liquid acrylic craft paint. Food coloring will also work, but colors will not be as vibrant.

Cover childrens' clothing with an apron and let the kids make designs in the snow. Avoid concrete or hard surfaces areas, since the paint will likely leave a residue. You will most likely be washing splattered paint off from footwear, so rubber snow boots are a great option.

How to Do This Remotely:

Use FaceTime or Google Duo as you paint together and show off one another's creations!