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(Available from HBJ, Canada; HBJ Limited, UK; HBJ Group Limited, AUS.)

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(Available from Penguin Books Canada; Penguin UK, UK; Penguin Australia, Aus.)

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The Snowy Day

by Ezra Jack Keats

Summary

One winter day, Peter wakes up to discover that it has snowed. He jumps into his snowsuit and heads out the door. He has a day full of exciting adventures which include making footprints in the snow, knocking snow off the limbs of a tree, getting in the middle of a snowball fight, making a snowman and a snow angel, and pretending to be a mountain climber. When Peter goes to sleep that night, he dreams that all the snow melts away. However, the next morning he is delighted to find that the snow is still there and new flakes are falling.

This classic is a perfect choice for introducing winter. Its simple story is told with pictures and text that children will enjoy again and again.

SETTING THE STAGE

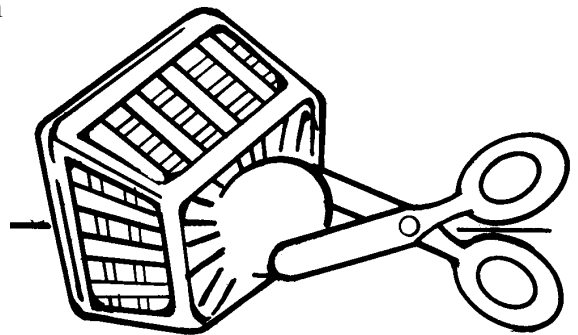
Discussion

Point out that people and animals store up food to prepare for winter. In many places, it is too cold in the winter to grow food. During the warmer months, some people can freeze vegetables and fruits from their gardens and later are able to enjoy these foods in the winter. Some animals also have ways to store food. Squirrels hide nuts and acorns in tree holes and under the ground so they will have food for the winter. Bears eat large amounts during the fall so they can hibernate, or sleep, during the winter. Chipmunks, groundhogs, snakes, turtles, and frogs also hibernate. Many birds migrate or fly south to find food in warmer climates during the winter months and return in the spring.

Plastic Snowflakes

Materials: Plastic berry basket for each child; scissors; glue; wax paper; glitter; string or thread

Directions: Cut a circular or square shape from the bottom of the plastic berry basket for the snowflake. Place the snowflake on a sheet of wax paper. Cover one side of the snowflake with glue. Sprinkle glitter on it and allow to dry. Carefully turn over the snowflake. Cover the other side with glue and glitter. After the glue dries, gently shake off any excess glitter. Save and reuse the glitter that falls onto the wax paper. Tie a piece of string or thread to the snowflake, and hang it in the window.



Variations:

1. Use the snowflakes as a template for printing snowflake designs. Dip the snowflake in paint and press it onto paper.
2. Use the plastic snowflake pattern as a stencil. Place two or three snowflake stencils on white paper and use black spray paint to cover the paper and snowflakes. Allow the paint to dry. When you remove the snowflake stencils, they will appear white on a black background and look like snowflakes falling at night.

Time of Wonder

by Robert McCloskey

Summary

A family experiences summertime on the coast of Maine. They enjoy all the wonderful sights which include the ocean, a summer storm, fog, a variety of boats, different types of birds and fish, and a seaplane. Then the family prepares for and lives through a hurricane. After the storm, they explore the damage the hurricane has caused.

This is an excellent book for introducing summer. Children will enjoy the beautifully descriptive text and distinctive watercolor illustrations.

SETTING THE STAGE

Summer Discussion

Materials: Index cards; pocket chart or bulletin board; HEADINGS — Summer, Fall, Winter, Spring, written on strips of construction paper

Directions: Have a class discussion about summer. Ask the children to tell what they like to do in the summer. As they dictate sentences to you, write them on the index cards. Have them post their index cards under the SUMMER heading on the pocket chart or bulletin board.

Colored Sand Picture

Materials: Sand; resealable plastic bags, one for each color; food coloring; poster board; glue

Directions: Pour some sand into several resealable plastic bags. Add a few drops of food coloring to each. Seal the bags. Shake until the color mixes evenly in the sand. Open the bags. Let the sand dry for a couple of hours. Have each child plan a picture so he or she will know where to put each color. Smear glue on the areas where a particular color of sand should go. Sprinkle the sand onto the glue. Allow the glue to dry. Gently shake off any excess sand. Repeat for each color of sand until the picture is complete.

Variations:

1. Combine the sand colors and mix them only slightly. Shaking the sand onto the picture will give a rainbow effect.
2. Make layered sand designs in bottles with the remaining colored sand. Use interestingly shaped bottles and tilt them in different directions to create a variety of designs.

