

Winter Unit

Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning: Comprehensive Standards for Four-Year Olds, 2007.

These standards are beacon lights for my curriculum. I adapt them according to the ability of my students. I use them as goals to strive towards or as background building for my students' future learning. These goals are my focus; but not the only objectives being utilized by these lessons. Language goals are used daily.

I. Virginia Foundation Blocks for Early Learning

1. Scientific Investigation, Reasoning and Life Processes
 - a. Identify basic properties of objects by direct observations
 - b. Describe objects using pictures and words
 - c. Separate a set of objects into 2 groups according to physical characteristics.
2. Science: Matter:
 - a. The child will develop language to describe an object's position, movement and physical properties.
 - b. The child will describe properties of water
3. Earth Patterns. Cycles and Change
 - a. Make daily weather observations

II. Concepts about winter: (also see teacher made book for Winter facts)

- The weather becomes colder
- We need to dress warmer
- It may snow
- If it snows one may need to shovel the snow and clean the snow off of our cars
- Ways to play in the snow: build a snowman, make snow angels, build a snow fort and have a snowman fight
- When really cold, one can see your breath
- Distinguish between hot and cold
- Being healthy: getting rid of those nasty germs: cover your mouth when you cough, use a tissue to wipe nose, and wash hands

III. Stories That Can Be Read:

1. Mom Hates Me In January by Judy Delton
2. The Snowy Day by Keats
3. No Time Like Snow Time by 6th Grade Students in Trenton, ILL
4. Snow by Ray McKie and P.D. Eastman

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III. Stories That Can Be Read:

5. *The Runaway Giant* by Adelaide Holl
6. *One Snowy Day* by Jeffery Scherer
7. *Curious George In The Snow* by H.A. Rey
8. *The Mitten* by Jan Brett
9. *The Hat* by Jan Brett
10. *Snowmen At Night* by Caralyn Buehner
11. *Stone Soup* by Ann McGovern
12. *My Winter Book* teacher made book by Teresa Williams
13. *Winter Book* submitted by Rachel Duff found on a Speech Website
(See Story Section of Teacher page) www.mypreschoolcorner.com
14. *Snow Magic* by June Eding
15. *Dear Rebecca, Winter is Here* by Jean Craighead George

IV. Fine Motor/Art Activities

1. **Painting With Epson Salts:** (mix Epson salts with water) and then paint with it
 - a) **Ice Skating:** use a crayon on blue paper and scribble then paint with Epson salts mixture, and let dry
 - b) **Frozen Pond:** Paint with Epson salts mixture, then outline the area in marker as a pond
 - c) **Icy Windows:** paint with Epson salts, and then outline the dried paper with a window frame.
2. **Sponge Painted Snowman:** Sponge paints a snowman with a round sponge
3. **Popcorn Snow Scene:** Pop popcorn and glue it on paper in a snowy scene
4. **Swirling Snow Blizzard:** Use a sting dipped in white paints and swirl it all over the paper to make a blizzard
5. **Rice Picture:** Draw a picture with chalk and then add rice for snow
6. **Paper Snowflakes:** Cut out snowflakes,
7. **Pasta Snowflakes:** Spray with white paint and glue on a precut paper snowflake, child adds glitter
8. **Ivory Snow Painting:** Make up ivory snow into a snowy mixture (add water until it's the consistency of mashed potatoes)
 - a. **Winter Scene:** Paint a snowman or make snowdrifts on paper with snow mixture
 - b. **Play time with cars:** Drive toy cars through it
 - c. **Snowman soap :** Make a snowman to use as soap

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IV. Fine Motor/Art Activities continued:

- d. **Pinecone with Snow:** Paint ivory snow on a pinecone
- 9. **Cotton Ball Snowman :** Fill a paper outline of a snowman with pillow batting or cotton balls.
- 10. **Chalk Snow Storm :** Draw with chalk - snow and sprinkle with glitter
- 11. **Doily Snowflakes:** Cover with glue and sprinkle with glitter
- 12. **Melted Snowman;** Children tear paper in a circular shape, then add a black hat, button eyes and mouth, and paper carrot nose
- 13. **Sponge Paint Snowflakes:** Dip sponge in white paint and paint on paper
- 14. **Bubble Paper Snow Storm :** Paint the bubble side of bubble paper with white paint and press it on the paper. One can also draw a picture or add paper or foam items on paper first.
- 15. **Paper Plate Snowman:** Need 3 Paper plates per child: Fasten all 3 plates together- add brown paper twigs for arms (or use small real twigs), Add Christmas ribbon for scarf and paper or button eyes and paper carrot nose
- 16. **Make Icicles:** Paint icicles with a medicine dropper or food baser use an easel to paint
- 17. **Winter Trees :** Make paper evergreen trees, then decorate with glue and glitter or fake snow flakes
- 18. **Chalk Picture:** Make snow with chalk that has been dipped in
- 19. **Snow globe:**
 - a. **Paper Snow Globe:** cut out a paper outline in a medium sized circle on light blue paper. Children add on paper snowman or green trees, then add on torn paper white snow flakes. Cut out a brown or colorful base for snow globe. Laminate the globe then attach to base.
 - b. **Real Glass or Plastic Snow Globe:** A plastic or glass baby food jar. Child adds in plastic animals, snowman or trees to the lid of jar Add in glitter and water to jar. Hot glue the lid to jar then shake.
- 20. **Cup of Hot Chocolate :** Make a paper out line of a cup, glue onto another sheet of paper. Add on instant hot chocolate, and add on mini marshmallows.
- 21. **Snowy Day picture:** Use a dark background paper, cut out different color rectangles or city buildings. Take white paper and use light blue or pink chalk on paper in swirls. tear paper to go on top of buildings , and add on bottom of paper for snowdrifts.

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IV. Fine Motor/Art Activities continued:

22. **Footprints in the snow:** Child walks barefoot on a piece of bulletin board paper. One can use an old pair of shoes and children take turns making prints turning the toes in or out or going straight.
23. **Shaving Cream Play:** Use shaving cream mixed with glue to paint on snow
- * **Shaving cream snow:** Drive small cars and trucks through the shaving cream snow

V. Activities to Go With "Stone Soup" Story:

1. Read to tell the story with props such as a large plastic black pot and play vegetables . I do both.
2. **Identify** the vegetables
3. **Sort** the vegetables by color
4. **Distinguish** between a rock, play meat and play vegetables
5. **Tasting vegetables:** Bring in real vegetable and have a tasting party
6. **Stone Soup:** Make real Stone soup in a crock pot - children taste and take home some
7. **Make a vegetable man:** Can be a class project; where the teacher draws the vegetables:

Example below :

My head is : a tomato

My arms are: string green beans

My body is : a potato

My legs are: celery sticks or can be carrots

Have out play vegetable and build a vegetable man if you have enough pieces or use real vegetables to make one .

VI. Cooking Activities:

1. **Making Maple Taffy:** You can pour ready made syrup in strips over a pan of ice; the candy will get hard and when cool the children can eat. the syrup needs to be heated so its warm or hot when poured. I haven't made this in a few years so I would recommend a practice batch first.
2. **Snowman Cake or cupcakes :** Make a cake with 2 round cake pans and decorate. This can also be done with cup cakes that are lined up to make a snowman: Use white fluffy icing and can add on coconut
3. **Marshmallow snowman :** Use 3 marshmallows for snowman, connect with large toothpicks or plastic party toothpicks, add a chocolate covered mallow cookie for hat, use decorate gel for carrot nose and mouth, mini chocolate chips for eyes, mini mm's for buttons and pretzel sticks for arms, assemble and enjoy

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4. **Snowball cookies** : Make sugar cookies and decorate with white fluffy icing and coconut or buy Little Debbie Snowball cookies and eat for snack
5. **Snowflake snack** made with marshmallow and pretzels stuck all around the side.

VII. Games To Play

1. **Memory Game** : Place winter items on the table for children to see, then put one item away and let the children guess what is missing. Saying, " Remember, remember what you see. Now something is different, what can it be?"
2. **Freeze Tag** with music
3. **Ice Skating**: Pretend to ice skate to music

VIII. Recipe

Maple Taffy on Snow or Crushed Ice

For those of us who don't currently have snow, we will either have to wait or substitute crushed ice for this recipes. Sounds like something that could be really yummy and fun for the kids to "help" out with, although they should be supervised carefully with the hot liquid.

by LAURIE

Maple Taffy or Crushed ice or Snow Recipe

Time to make 40 min 10 min prep

- 3 1/2 quarts crushed ice (or snow)
- 2 cups pure maple syrup
- 1 teaspoon butter

1. Pack clean fresh snow into 2 13x9 pans until dense and smooth on top.
2. Keep snow or crushed ice outside or in freezer until ready to use.
3. Add maple syrup & butter to saucepan.
4. Boil uncovered on medium high heat until the syrup reaches 250 - 260 degrees.
5. Do not stir.
6. Remove from heat immediately and pour small strips of hot syrup on snow until pot is empty.

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7. A second person (wearing winter gloves) should roll each hot strip onto a popsicle stick or fork and leave on the snow to cool.
8. Eat when cool.
9. The syrup is extremely hot - it can cause severe burns.
10. Store uneaten sticks on cookie sheets lined with waxed paper in the deep freeze.
11. They will keep for several weeks.



Things That Are Cold!



Things That Are Hot!

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1. There is also black and white copy, but I prefer to use color and the children only need to cut and paste.
2. I also made a shoe box game where the children have to put the pictures in the right side of the divided shoe box: for Hot/and Cold

