Goals: Children will explore winter themes through music, reading, movement, poetry, and art
Objectives: Students will
learn movement vocabulary from adverbs in poetry
learn to create a sound piece about winter with percussion instruments
explore conducting techniques
analyze classical music which describes the sounds of winter
create movements to express the mood of a snowstorm.
WINTER THROUGH THE ARTS

Enclosed are activities which integrate music, singing, listening, playing percussion instruments with language arts, movement, visual arts, poetry, drama, and story reading. Each lesson takes approximately 40 minutes and should be taught in this order.

Read the story of *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keates
1. Show the pictures of the story as you read it
2. Let the children act out the story of the boy sleeping, awakening, getting snow clothes on, walking with toes pointed in, then out as he walks in the deep snow, climbing a hill etc.
3. Select instruments to add sound effects to the words such as “scraping stick”, “snow falling plop on his head”, “climbing up the hill and then sliding down the hill”, “sun shining”
4. Read the story and have half the class act out the story and the other half of the class play the instruments. Read again and switch roles.

Take colorful construction paper with plenty of white for the snow, and glue sticks.
1. Discuss the torn paper effect in the book’s illustrations
2. Set out many colored sheets of construction paper
3. Divide into pairs and let each group decide on a winter scene to create from their imagination or from the book
4. Have the children tear papers by hand, and position them on a large blue piece of paper. After the children are satisfied with their arrangement, they can glue-stick the picture together.
5. Laminate and display the pictures in the room Let each group describe their winter scene to the class.
Poetry and Movement:
Read the poem of the swirling snow in the last page. Allow children to move to each phrase incorporating the moves of whirling, swirling, sliding, floating etc.

SNOWFLAKES by Marian Kennedy

Whirling, swirling, rushing, twirling,
Sifting through the air
Snowflakes scurrying, scampering, hurrying,
Falling everywhere.

Gently, sliding, floating, gliding,
Making not a sound,
Lightly dancing, skipping, prancing,
Fluttering to the ground.

Whirling, swirling, rushing, twirling,
‘Gainst the window pane;
Snowflakes scurrying, scampering, hurrying,
Winter’s here again

Listening and Dancing:

1. After reading and moving to the poem, let the class listen to Claude Debussy’s “Snowflakes Dancing” from “A Children’s Corner.”
2. Let the children describe the delicate sounds of the flute and piano, and imagine the scene described by the music.
3. Have the class move to the music as you call out words from the above poem.
4. Children can attach hand made paper snowflakes to their wrists with rubber bands. Or add ribbon and streamers which will encourage more free and flowing movements.

Listen to other classical examples of winter for movement such as Prokofiev’s Winter Bonfire-“Waltz on Ice” and Mozart’s “Musical Sleigh Ride”-on the Music Connection collection and Vivaldi’s “Winter” in the Four Seasons

Play Vivaldi’s “Winter” segment from “The Four Seasons”

1. Describe the chilling, short, abrupt, hesitant sounds of the violins which create wind, ice and stormy weather.
2. Let the children move in short abrupt movements freezing after each short move to the sounds of the music.
3. Tell the children to stand in a pose of a “tree whose branches are covered in ice” As the music plays, the branches move little by little in static movements to thaw out.
Create an instrumental improvisation
1. Decide on classroom percussion instruments which are suggestive of light snowflake sounds and of winter stormy, windy sounds (metal, drums)
2. Distribute the chimes, triangle, finger cymbals, bell tree, bells and drums
3. Conduct the class in a layering pattern to create a crescendo effect of a storm and then “unlayer” to describe the calm after the storm—one student plays his instrument as directed, then another student adds on, then a third until all are playing in the tempo and dynamics set by the teacher. Then one by one, the teacher has the students stop playing until just one instrument is playing, then silence.

4. Students can be selected to conduct their version of a storm
5. Show pictures of Pissaro’s winter scenes or other prints of a stormy day.
6. Tape record the music and play back to discuss improvement, if any.

For a final presentation children can display their drawings, read the poem, dance to the recorded music, and perform their instrumental improvisation

CINQUAIN poetry and ART
Have the class write individual cinquain poems describing winter memories and images. Let them illustrate the poem, attach the poem to the drawing. Then read the poems in groups of three, alternating with a winter instrumental improvisation. Project the images of the drawings from a powerpoint presentation onto a screen as the children read their poems.
Cinquain poems are five lines:
Line one—a word for the subject of the poem
Line two—adjectives—four syllables
Line three—adverbs—six syllables
Enclosed are the poems of a fourth grade class in Attleboro.

Ice Skates
Graceful, freezing
Hurting, falling, spinning
Relaxed, being with family
Gliding
Dead trees
Lifeless, leafless
Swaying, breaking, freezing
Worthlessly lying in the wind
Barren branches

Bright lights
beautiful, warm
colorful, bright, lovely
glittery stars, different, fashion
Awesome
snowflake
ice white falling
silent falling on the ground
melting, melting icy snowflake
springtime

snowflakes
softly singing
dancing down the steep hill
staying up until dark midnight
Dreaming
snowball
throwing, flying
chunky, sloppy, snowy
pale white, different, awesome, little
speedy
snowboard
awesome, playing
360 fun landing
brake, jumping, rocking, snowboarding,
cool board

cocoa
sloppy, sticky
marsmellowey, good, warm
delightful, yummy, nice, tasty
tasty
messy
A wonderful two-part choral piece is “The Perfect Winter Day” great for grades 4-8. The children can wear their favorite winter hats, and throw confetti snow at the end of the music. This piece can be found in the Plank Publishing series MUSIC K-8 Series 7-2

Here is the fourth grade singing this song with their winter hats at a winter assembly
WINTER CRAFTS

Projects for Winter & Holiday Activities

Make a Snowstorm

You will need
-a screw-top jar
-finely cut silver foil or dried coconut
-cake decorations (snowman, robin, fir tree)
-water and glue

1. Open the jar and glue the snowman or tree to the inside of the top. Fill the jar with water and add coconut or foil cut into tiny pieces.
2. Screw the top on tightly and turn the jar upside down. Shake it and watch the snow fall.
Bird Bell
You will need
-a plastic cup
-fine string
-a darning needle
-a matchstick
-food
-grease left over from cooking
-modeling clay
1. Thread string though the base of the cup and hod it n place with a matchstick.
2. Stir up a mixture of dried fruit, bread and household scraps such as bacon, cooked potato, cheese and oatmeal.
3. Plug the base hole with modeling lay, and fill the pot with the food.
4. Heat the grease in a saucepan to melt it, but don’t let it get too hot as not to melt the cup
5. Pour in the melted grease and leave it to set. Wait until it is cool and hard.
6. Hang the bell upside down from a branch or balcony.
Observe the various birds that come to the feeder. As the weather gets warmer, different birds will visit, and others will leave
Winter Light
Candles are lit in ceremonies in many winter holidays. It symbolizes life, truth, triumph of good over evil.

You will need:
- candle wax granules
- stearin in a disk, with dye added
- a length of wick or soft string
- a mold
- an old saucepan
- a pencil

For a mold use a wine glass or sundae cup.

1. Tie a length of wick to a pencil and rest this in your mold so that the wick falls to its base. Stick the wick to the base of the mold with a blob of melted wax.
2. Melt the wax in the saucepan. If you are using granules, add 1 part stearin to 9 parts wax. Pour into the mold. Hold the pencil as you do this, and be careful not to let the wax drip onto your hand.
3. Leave to cool, but do not chill. The wax will shrink slightly as it sets, so add a little more every so often to keep the top of the candle level.
4. Take the candle out of the mold.

To decorate a plain candle, stand a candle firmly and light it. Soften the ends of crayons in the candle flame and dab onto another candle until it is covered with colored dots. Hold the dotted candle horizontally over the flame and turn it so that the colors melt and run together. Don’t keep it still for too long or the candle itself will melt.
Crystal Garden-crystals form in the snow and ice.

Make a crystal winter garden indoor, full of shape and color. You will need:
- water glass (sodium silicate solution)
- large glass jar
- crystals of copper sulfate (blue), ferrous sulfate (green), nickel sulfate (turquoise), cobalt chloride (dark red), zinc chloride (white)

1. Fill the jar almost to the top with the water glass solution. Put it wherever you want it, as it should not be moved once you have added the crystals.
2. Drop in the crystals. Some, such as copper sulfate, come in lumps. Sprinkle the others in, or use a funnel. Try to keep the different crystals separate. The funnel will help
3. Your crystal garden will soon begin to grow into fantastic shapes; long spidery strands, branching patterns or fluted columns. Each type of crystal will grow a different color, so you garden should be a mixture of blue, green, turquoise, red and white.

Put a lamp behind the crystal garden so that you can see the colors more clearly

Decorate your window with these lovely snowflakes
You will need:
a paintbrush
margarine tub lid
white glue
yarn
glitter

1. Use a paintbrush to cover the inside of a margarine tub lid with a thin layer of white glue.
2. Make a loop with yard by placing the ends of a 2-inch piece into the glue at the edge of the lid
3. Sprinkle with colored glitter
4. Let the glue dry until it is almost clear. The bend the lid to loosen your snowflake and pull it off the lid
5. Let the glue dry completely until it is clear
6. Hang your snowflake in a window.

BOOKS ABOUT WINTER

Petrouchka, Igor Stravinsky and Alexandre Benois adapted by Elizabeth Cleaver
Published by Atheneum, NY 1980-(ISBN -0-689-30704-7) is a beautiful book with watercolors, torn paper and monoprints. It tells about a puppet with a soul who tries to win the love of a ballerina during a Shrovetide Fair, a traditional winter fair in Russia. “It was wintertime. Crystal patterns of snow were fluttering and twirling in the air as if they were dancing…sleighs raced over the snow…bringing the children to the Shrovetide Fair.”