



EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR THE SNOWY DAY

BY EZRA JACK KEATS



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ezra Jack Keats has illustrated and written dozens of books for young children, the most famous being the Caldecott Medal winner, *The Snowy Day*, which has delighted millions of children all over the world. With simple text and gorgeous illustrations, it's no wonder that this book is beloved by children and adults alike.

READING EXTENSION:

Read other all time favorite books by Ezra Jack Keats such as *A Letter to Amy*, *A Pet Show*, *Goggles*, *Peter's Chair* and *Whistle for Willie*.

PETER'S SNOWY DAY

After reading *The Snowy Day*, children are asked to recall sights, sounds and events from Peter's walk in the snow. They will do this through clues.

Materials:

- *The Snow Day* book

Activity:

Start by giving clues for each word:

- "This is the piece of clothing Peter put on to go outside" It was red and it kept him warm while he was walking." snowsuit
- What sound did Peter's feet make as they sank into the snow?" crunch
- "This is how Peter was walking when he dragged his feet in the snow. He was not walking fast, he was walking..." slow
- "This is what Peter used to make a new track as he walked in the snow." stick
- "This is something Peter made out of snow. It smiled at him when he was done making it." snowman
- "What fell on top of Peter's head?" snow
- "What did Peter pretend to be?" mountain climber
- "What did Peter put in his pocket?" snowball
- "When Peter went to sleep, what did Peter dream?" sun had melted the snow away

ESTIMATION JAR

Materials:

- jar
- snowflake mini erasers

Activity:

Fill a small jar with snowflake erasers and have the children estimate how many snowflakes are in the jar. Record the children's answers and/or graph them. Count the snowflakes together. Discuss who had the exact answer, who was the closest, who had too many and who had not enough.

MAKING SNOWFLAKES

At the end of *The Snowy Day*, Peter looked out his window and saw new snow falling in the form of beautiful, patterned snowflakes. By folding and cutting paper, children can make their own snowflake design.

Materials:

- large white paper squares
- safety scissors
- string or yarn

Preparation:

Cut paper into squares so that all sides are the same length. Fold paper squares in half across, then fold in half down to create a smaller square.

Activity:

Demonstrate how to create a snowflake design by cutting a folded paper along the edges. Explain to the children not to cut the point as this will form the center of the snowflake. Cutting this part will make the snowflake fall apart. Pass out safety scissors to children and let them begin cutting their snowflake designs. When the children are done cutting, adults can help them unfold their snowflakes and hang them from the ceiling with string or yarn to create a truly snowy day!

ICE AND SNOW

In *The Snowy Day*, Peter tries to save a snowball in his pocket only to find his pocket empty by the time he goes to bed. Children will have the opportunity to explore snow, ice and water to learn about freezing and thawing.

Materials:

- access to a freezer
- blender
- bowls
- empty ice cube trays
- ice
- pitcher of water

Preparation:

Make ice cubes in advance. Use a blender to crush ice cubes to make "snow."

Activity:

Pass around a couple of bowls of snow and encourage the children to touch the snow, form a snowball and talk about how the snow feels. Place the snowballs on a table and tell the children that while they are waiting to see what will happen to the snowballs they can help you make ice. Engage children in helping to fill the empty ice cube trays with water from the pitcher. Place the trays in the freezer. Turn the children's attention back to the snowballs and discuss what is happening. Once the snowballs have fully melted, talk about how the snow, which was frozen water, has melted and turned back into liquid water because the room is warm. Once the ice cubes have frozen, show the trays to the children. Talk about how the water froze and turned into ice because the temperature in the freezer is very cold.