



CREATIVE KITS

ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

DECEMBER 2020

“WINTER WONDERLAND”

Creative Kit: December 2020

Library Newsletter

What's It All About?

Welcome to your **Creative Kit!** Because the library is not yet open for programs, this kit includes a month's worth of activities for you to complete at home. Inside, you'll find craft projects, science experiments, games and activities, a book list, a reading challenge, and much more.

To make the most of your kit, tune in to videos and virtual programming hosted by the library (a full schedule is included). If you have any questions about your kit, please call the library at 224-7113, or email the Youth Services Librarian at juliana@bakerfreelib.org.

Theme of the Month

In December, we welcome winter! Celebrate the new season with crafts and activities that explore snowy weather, winter games, arctic animals and hibernation. This month, we also celebrate some of our favorite winter holidays, like Hanukkah, Christmas, and New Year's Day!

MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY

We've made it to the end of a challenging year! I want to thank each of our families for adapting to the many changes in our services this year, and for continuing to use the library despite these challenges. I am so grateful to each of you for your patience, humor and optimism. **I wish you all a safe and joyful holiday season, with love from everyone at the Baker Free Library!** We will see you again in 2021.

Inside Your Kit

Each Creative Kit Includes:

- ☐ (1) Suggested Calendar
- ☐ (1) December Book List
- ☐ (1) December Reading Challenge
- ☐ (1) December Lego Challenge
- ☐ Polar Express Printables and Activities
- ☐ **ART PROJECT:** Mood Bear
- ☐ **ART PROJECT:** Watercolor Snowflakes
- ☐ **STEM EXPLORATION:** Snow Globe
Thaumatropes
- ☐ **STEM EXPLORATION:** Winter Slime Workshop
- ☐ **ACTIVITY:** December Coloring Contest
- ☐ **GIFT:** Snowman Bookmark

AGE 3-7 KIT ALSO INCLUDES:

- ☐ **ART PROJECT:** Snowman Paper Puppet
- ☐ **ACTIVITY:** Santa Letter Writing Template
- ☐ **ACTIVITY:** Roll-a-Story

AGE 8-12 KIT ALSO INCLUDES:

- ☐ **ART PROJECT:** Cardboard Camera
- ☐ **STEM EXPLORATION:** Magnetic Ice Skater
- ☐ **ACTIVITY:** Short Story Challenge

Let's Explore!

Additional Information & Resources

Additional Resources



Visit www.explore.org (or use their free app) to watch a live animal webcam! We recommend the following livestreams this month:

1. **International Wolf Center** in Ely, Minnesota
2. **Siku and his Polar Bear Family** in Kolind, Denmark
3. **Polar Bear Tundra Buggy** in Manitoba, Canada
4. **Penguin Beach** in Long Beach, California
5. **Squam Lakes Fox Den** in Holderness, NH

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS: WINTER HOLIDAYS & CELEBRATIONS

December is a month full of holiday celebrations. At Nat Geo, learn the meaning behind Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and other holidays celebrated around the world. You'll find games and videos, too! All at kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/winter-celebrations/

TINKER LAB

Do you love science projects and experiments? Check out **Tinker Lab**, a site that offers hundreds of free STEM activities to try at home! This month, check out their videos on optical illusions to learn more about the thaumatrope project included in your kit, or find more slime recipes to make alongside your homemade snow! All available at tinkerlab.com/science-projects/

Curious Questions

Why Do Snowflakes Have Six Sides?

Snowflakes begin as small pieces of dust, pollen, ash or soil floating in the air above us. When it gets cold enough, these specks start to freeze, and water sticks to them and freezes, too, making the speck even bigger. This process repeats, with more water sticking and freezing to the speck, until a crystal is formed.

The snowflake's shape continues to change and grow as it falls to the ground. Heat and humidity (how much moisture is in the air) affect the shape of each snowflake. One thing you can be sure of, though: snowflakes always have **six** sides, or a multiple of six (some rare snowflakes can have 12 sides). Why is that?

It's because snow is made up of water, and water molecules (the smallest units of water) always attach to each other in groups of six. So although snowflakes come in lots of different shapes and sizes, they'll always have six sides!

Check Out Some Macro-Photography!

Have you heard of macro-photography? These are pictures taken of extremely small objects, sometimes so small that we can't see them with our own eyes. Macro-photographers **magnify** these tiny objects so that they appear much larger, and we can see them in detail up-close. This is how we get photographs of snowflakes!

The most famous snow photographer is Wilson "Snowflake" Bentley, who took more than 5,000 pictures of snow crystals with a camera he built himself! To see some of his pictures, visit snowflakebentley.com. You can also see some amazing pictures taken by the Russian macro-photographer Alexey Kljatov, at alexey-kljatov.pixels.com.

SUGGESTED CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 READING CHALLENGE Stock up on some new books at the library, and check off an item on your monthly reading challenge!	2 NORTH POLE EXPRESS MAIL Write a letter to Santa, and bring it to the library by December 12! (3-7)	3 PICTURE BOOK READ-ALOUD 10:30AM (Virtual)	4 STEM EXPLORATION Make a magnetic ice skater and paper rink, using a paper plate and a craft stick (8-12).	5 ART EXPLORATION Break out the watercolors and make your own illusion snowflake painting today.
7 EXPLORE A LIVESTREAM Visit explore.org to drop in on some arctic animals in their natural habitats.	8 READING CHALLENGE Check off one of the items on your monthly Reading Challenge.	9 STEM EXPLORATION Try making your own homemade snow or hot chocolate slime today!	10 PICTURE BOOK READ-ALOUD 10:30AM (Virtual)	11 OPTICAL ILLUSION Make your snow globe thaumatrope today to create your own optical illusion.	12 MAKE YOUR MASTERPIECE Color your picture for this month's coloring contest. Entries are due back to the library next Thursday.
14 BOOKANEERS BOOK CLUB 4:00PM (Virtual)	15 STORY TELLER Today, try the Roll-a-story activity (3-7), or spread some joy with our short story challenge (8-12).	16 ART EXPLORATION Color and assemble your "mood" bear today, using the template provided in your kit.	17 PICTURE BOOK READ-ALOUD 10:30AM (Virtual)	18 EXPLORE A LIVESTREAM Visit explore.org to drop in on some arctic animals in their natural habitats.	19 SIGN-UP FOR JANUARY'S KIT Don't forget to register for the January kit! Sign-up using our online calendar.
21 READING CHALLENGE Check off one of the items on your monthly Reading Challenge.	22 ART EXPLORATION Assemble your snowman puppet today (3-7) or work on your cardboard camera (8-12)!	23 POLAR EXPRESS Today, try out some of the Polar Express activities included in your kit, based on the wonderful book by Chris van Allsburg.	24 LEGO CHALLENGE Build your own project, inspired by the library's monthly Lego Challenge!	25  FROM THE BAKER FREE LIBRARY!	26 THE LIBRARY IS CLOSED TODAY. WE WILL RE-OPEN ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 28 AT 10AM.
28 BOOK TRACKER Look over all the books you finished this month. Can you complete one more reading challenge today?	29 REFLECTION What topics are you still curious about? Ask a librarian to help you learn more!	30 THANK YOU Did a friend or family member make your holidays special? Make a thank you card for them today.	31 CELEBRATE! We've made it to the end of 2020. What are you most looking forward to in the new year?	YOU CAN COMPLETE THE ACTIVITIES IN YOUR KIT AT ANY TIME. THIS CALENDAR SHOWS A SAMPLE SCHEDULE THAT SPREADS YOUR KIT'S CONTENTS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH. LIBRARY EVENTS ARE COLORED IN GREEN!	

SUGGESTED BOOKS

AGES 3-7

Under My Hood I Have A Hat
ALL ABOUT ME: JP KUSKIN

Froggy Gets Dressed
ALL ABOUT ME: JP LONDON

William's Winter Nap
ANIMALS: JP ASHMAN

Little Fox in the Snow
ANIMALS: JP LONDON

Baby Bear's Not Hibernating
ANIMALS: JP PLOURDE

Sleep, Big Bear, Sleep
ANIMALS: JP WRIGHT

Winter Is Here
FAVORITES: JP HENKES

Old Bear
FAVORITES: JP HENKES

Little Penguins
FAVORITES: JP RYLANT

No Two Alike
NATURE: JP BAKER

Winter Dance
NATURE: JP BAUER

I Wish It Would Snow!
NATURE: JP DILLARD

Over and Under the Snow
NATURE: JP MESSNER

Goodbye Autumn, Hello Winter
NATURE: JP PAK

Grandmother Winter
NATURE: JP ROOT

Snow
NATURE: JP STOJIC

AGES 8-12

The Girl Who Speaks Bear
Sophie Anderson
J ANDERSON

Acadia Files: Winter Science
Katie Coppens
J COPPENS

The Secrets of the Wild Wood
Tonke Dragt
J DRAGT

Julie of the Wolves
Jean Craighead George
J GEORGE

Sugar and Ice
Kate Messner
J MESSNER

Greenglass House
Kate Milford
J MILFORD

Brian's Winter
Gary Paulsen
J PAULSEN

Wintersmith
Terry Pratchett
J PRATCHETT

Breadcrumbs
Anne Ursu
J URSU

The Long Winter
Laura Ingalls Wilder
J LITTLE HOUSE

Winter of the Ice Wizard
Mary Pope Osborne
J MAGIC TREE HOUSE

**The Lion, The Witch
and the Wardrobe**
C. S. Lewis
J NARNIA

NON-FICTION

Wonderful Winter
J 508.2 GOLDSTONE

**The Story of Snow:
The Science of Winter's Wonder**
J 551.57 CASSINO

**Snow Amazing:
Cool Facts and Warm Tales**
J 551.57 DRAKE

It's Snowing!
J 551.57 GIBBONS

Life in the Boreal Forest
J 578.73 GUIBERSON

**Snack, Snooze, Skeddaddle:
How Animals Get Ready for Winter**
J 591.56 SALAS

Hibernation
J 591.565 HALL

Backyard Birds of Winter
J 598 LER

Snowy Owl Invasion!
J 598.97 MARKLE

Survive a Blizzard
J 613.6 BOWMAN

The Kids' Winter Fun Book
J 793 GILLMAN

Skiing
J 796.93 WAXMAN

Winter Bees and Other Poems
J 811 SIDMAN

Blizzard!
J 974.7 MURPHY

Winter Wonderland

A December Reading Challenge for Kids

- ☐ December is a month to celebrate! Read a book about a holiday you don't celebrate at home.
- ☐ What's something you'd like to learn about in the new year? Look for a book that will help you get started now.
- ☐ Listen to an audio recording of a book, or listen to someone else read you a story.
- ☐ Read a book with snow or ice on the front cover.
- ☐ Read out loud to a pet or stuffed animal.
- ☐ Give the gift of reading! Make a card or book from paper, and give it to someone you love.
- ☐ Read a book about an animal that **hibernates** in winter: bears, chipmunks, hedgehogs, turtles, snakes, and many others.
- ☐ What's the best book you read all year? Share it with a friend or family member, and read the book they loved best!

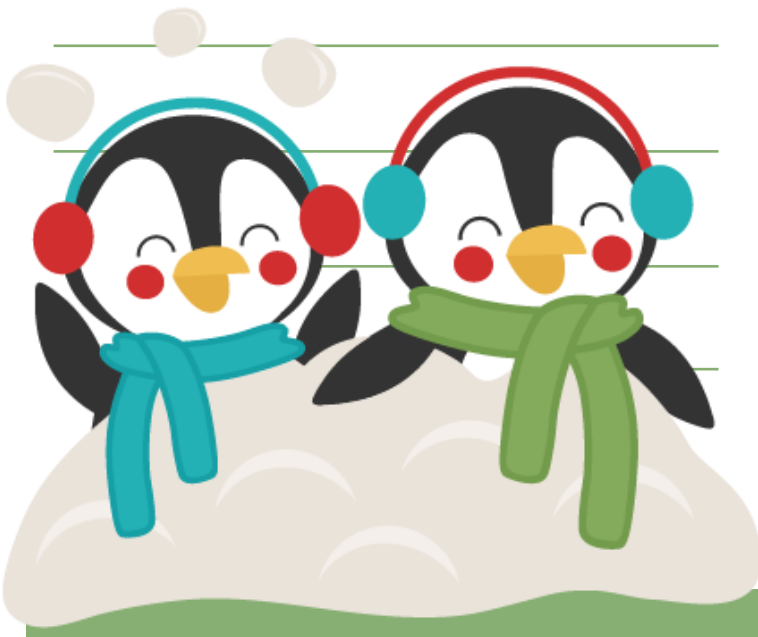


Winter Wonderland

December Reading Log

Books Finished







Challenge Completed



Look to the Sky...

Roll a Story Activity

All you need for this activity is a single die and some imagination! Create a story that weaves together the character, place and problem you receive by randomly rolling the dice. Your story can be long or short, and take as many twists and turns as you choose.

If You Roll A...	First Roll: Place	Second Roll: Character	Third Roll: Problem
	On Santa's sleigh	A pack of penguins	Being chased by the abominable snowman
	Deep in the woods	A grumpy polar bear	Their toys come to life
	Up on the rooftop	Olaf the Snowman	Trapped by an avalanche
	Inside of a snow globe	The ballerinas from the Nutcracker	Tongue frozen to a pole
	At the North Pole	An Olympic ice-skater	Stuck on an iceberg
	In a toyshop	The Boston Bruins	Turns into a reindeer

If you'd like to be featured on the library's website, submit the completed story to juliana@bakerfreelib.org, or bring it to the library on your next visit!

Winter Wonderland

Short Story Challenge

The Challenge: Write a short story that includes the phrase "It was my favorite gift of the year."
The phrase can occur anywhere in the story. Be creative, and feel free to add pictures!
If you'd like to be featured on the library's website, submit the completed story
to juliana@bakerfreelib.org, or bring it to the library on your next visit!

Space is provided below, but you can write or type your story anywhere you choose.

Winter Slime Workshop

Homemade Snow and Hot Cocoa Slime

HOT COCOA SLIME



MATERIALS NEEDED:

4 ounces white glue
1/2 tablespoon baking soda
1 tablespoon contact solution

Food coloring, or 1 teaspoon unsweetened cocoa powder
(For brown color)

Foam pieces, marshmallow pieces, white confetti, or white beads
(For marshmallows)

PLEASE NOTE:
This slime is **NOT** edible!

*As with all slime recipes, we recommend that adults supervise their children closely. This recipe is **not edible**, so no part of the slime should be tasted or put into the child's mouth.

STEP 1: Begin by making a basic white slime. Mix together four ounces of white glue, 1/2 tablespoon of baking soda, and 1 tablespoon of contact solution. Slime takes some stirring and kneading to develop, so keep mixing stirring, and handling your slime until the mixture feels right.

STEP 2: Once your slime is the right texture, add food coloring or 1 teaspoon of cocoa powder to the mix. Knead and handle your slime until the color is evenly mixed.

STEP 3: Lastly, add some props to your slime to look like marshmallows! Real marshmallows will work (the smaller, the better), but so will small pieces of foam or white beads. Experiment with different items to see how they mix with the slime.

STEP 4: Play! The best part of any slime recipe is getting to squeeze, squish and play with it! Stretch your slime to see how far you can pull it, see how the "marshmallows" sink and rise inside the mixture, and more!

OPTIONAL ADDITIONS:

- Add some glitter to make your slime shine.
- Add essential oil or extracts, like peppermint or vanilla, to make your slime smell like a minty mocha! Ask an adult for help before rooting through the kitchen.

Winter Slime Workshop

Homemade Snow and Hot Cocoa Slime

HOMEMADE SNOW

MATERIALS NEEDED:

This project only requires two ingredients!

White Hair Conditioner,
scented or unscented
(1/2 cup)

Baking Soda
(3 cups)

OPTIONAL:
White or silver glitter

PLEASE NOTE:
This slime is **NOT** edible!



*As with all slime recipes, we recommend that adults supervise their children closely. This recipe is **not edible**, so no part of the slime should be tasted or put into the child's mouth.

STEP 1: This unique recipe makes a substance that feels just like snow! It will feel a bit more “sandy” than slime usually does. All you need is white hair conditioner (we recommend a scented one, like coconut!) and some baking soda. To begin, add three cups of baking soda to a large mixing bowl.

STEP 2: Add or scoop in about 1/2 cup of conditioner (you can refrigerate the conditioner for a little while, to produce “cold” snow, but it's not required). Use a spatula to begin stirring the mixture. As it starts to clump together, use your hands to squish and squeeze the mixture.

STEP 3: Your snow is ready to use! It should be sticky enough to form snowballs or build a mini-snowman, but will easily fall into pieces. If you'd like, you can mix in some glitter to make your snow really sparkle.

STEP 4: Play! The best part of any slime recipe is getting to squeeze, squish and play with it! Some ideas for playing with your snow:

- Write or draw a picture in your snow with your fingers.
- Make shapes using cookie cutters or playdough molds.
- Add figurines of arctic animals, like penguins or polar bears, or use some toy trucks and construction vehicles to move or plow the snow!

Letter to Santa Writing Template

From **November 30 to December 12**, the Baker Free Library will host a special mailbox for Bow residents. Write a letter to Santa and drop it off at the library, and your child will receive a mailed response from Santa!

HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

- Write a letter to Santa that includes your name, age, a few kind things you've done this year, any questions or requests you have this Christmas, and anything you'd like Santa to know about yourself.
- With your letter, please include an address to the home or school where you'd like Santa to respond. Stamps are not required.
- Drop your letter off at the library between **November 30 and December 12, in order to guarantee a response**. The library's holiday mailbox is located right outside the front lobby, and can be accessed anytime.

Some letter templates are included for you to use,
but you can write your letter anywhere you like.

Please include your address on the back!

Dear Santa, _____

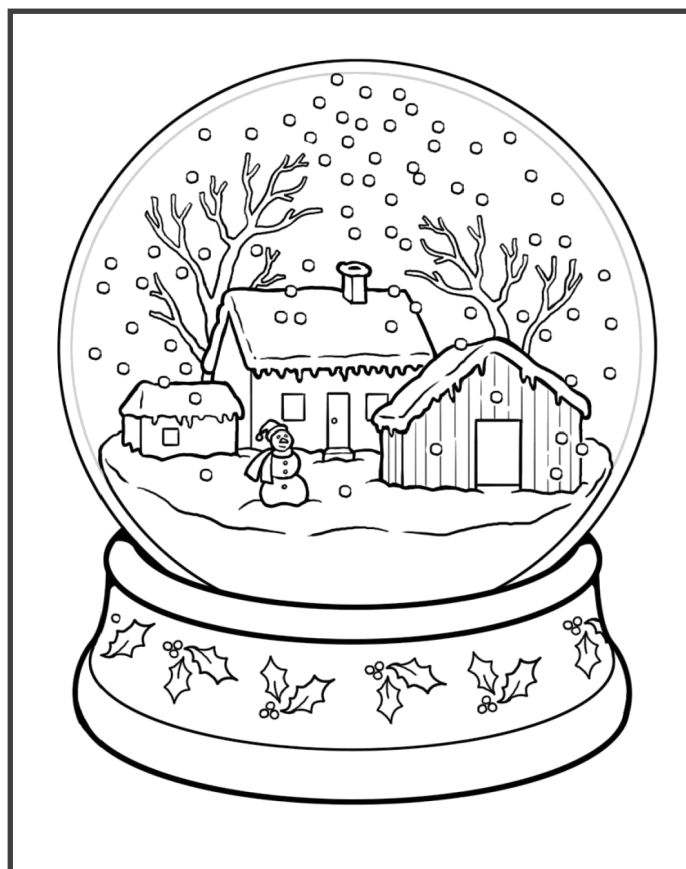


Who Should Santa Write To?

My Name:

I live at:

December Coloring Contest!



To enter our coloring contest, color the included picture and bring it to the library with your name and age on written on the back.

You can also scan and email your completed entry to
juliana@bakerfreelib.org.

Prizes will be awarded to the best entries!

Please send in your completed picture by **December 18, 2020**.

