

# January 2013

Happy New Year to you and your students! May it be the best year yet for you personally and for your "little ones" at school. To celebrate the start of 2013, this month I am including two fun winter songs set to familiar tunes and several activities to use with them. All are from our new musical CD (Moo-ving into Math) and the accompanying book (Moo-ving into Math Journals). Check out the Gift Shop for more information about these two fun titles. In addition to these activities, I am including more winter fun ideas.

Be sure to log on next month for some exciting Chinese New Year celebration songs, poems, ideas, and book selections. Until then, have a great January and get your year rolling in a positive way!

Sincerely,

Dr. Maggie



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

# My Snowmen

By Dr. Maggie Allen  
(Tune: "This Old Man")

My snowman number ONE,  
I built him for lots of fun.  
With a pit-pat, add some snow,  
Roll it nice and round.  
My snowman's the best in town.



My snowman number TWO,  
I built him for me and you.  
With a pit-pat, add some snow,  
Roll it nice and round.  
My snowman's the best in town.

My snowman number THREE,  
He is really big, you see.  
With a pit-pat, add some snow,  
Roll it nice and round.  
My snowman's the best in town.



My snowman number FOUR,  
He stands in front of a store.  
With a pit-pat, add some snow,  
Roll it nice and round.  
My snowman's the best in town.

My snowman number FIVE,  
Looks like he could be alive.  
With a pit-pat, add some snow,  
Roll it nice and round.  
My snowman's the best in town.



## Materials:

"My Snowmen" reproducible  
My Snowmen Props reproducible  
five snowmen props on craft sticks  
or paint stirring sticks  
My Snowmen transparency or chart



## Falling Snowflakes

Give each child a Falling Snowflakes sheet. Read the poem with the children and then sing it to "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." After singing, ask children to draw ten snowflakes around the poem. When finished, number the snowflakes or just write numerals to 10. (For a dramatic effect, have children cut and glue the song onto black construction paper. Make a mixture of half to two-thirds Epsom salts and the rest water. Have children use this mixture to paint their ten snowflakes on the black paper. As the mixture dries, "snow crystals" form, like magic!)

## My Snowmen

Display in random order five snowmen props and the transparency or chart of "My Snowmen." Read the words slowly to the children. Call on a volunteer to find the correct snowman and place it first. Continue reading and calling on children until all five are in order. Distribute one to each of five volunteers. Now sing it to "This Old Man" and have children dramatize the song. Give each child a "My Snowmen" song/chant sheet and also give each child a copy of My Snowmen Props. Children may cut out the five snowmen and glue them to craft sticks. Sing "My Snowmen" again and let each child use his/her set of props to dramatize the song. Call attention to the fact that the number word on each snowman's hat and the set of coal buttons on its body correspond.

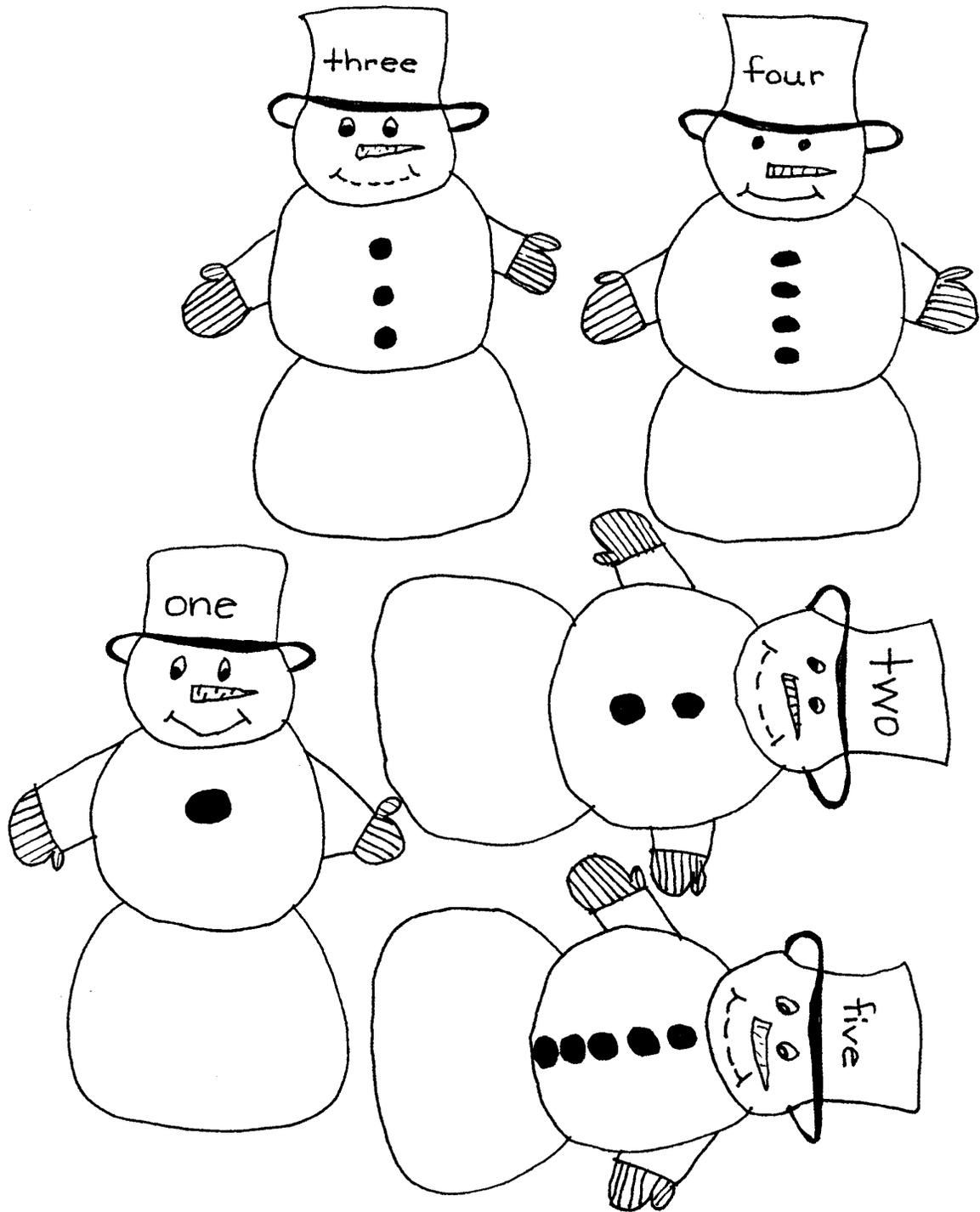
Have older children create addition and subtraction problems using the props by holding up the correct prop to answer the math fact. (Example)  $10 - 6 = \underline{\quad}$ ? Child holds up snowman prop four.

Note: Enlarge My Snowmen Props for easier cutting.

## Miniature Snowballs

Count and eat "miniature snowballs" at snack time. Distribute ten miniature marshmallows to each child. Have children count them first by ones and then by twos to ten. After counting, tell children: "Let the snowballs melt in your mouth--just like snow!"

# My Snowmen Props



Falling Snowflakes  
by Dr. Maggie Allen  
(Tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle")

Falling, falling all around.  
Ten snowflakes fall gently down.

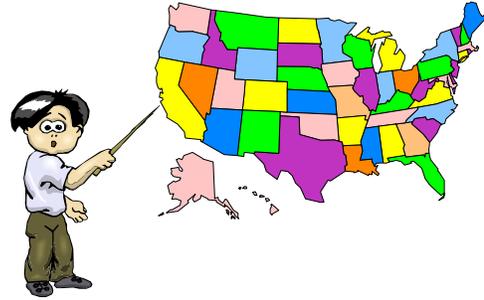
Up above the trees so high,  
White snowflakes are swirling by.

Falling, falling all around,  
Ten snowflakes fall gently down.

I can draw 10 snowflakes.



## Activities:



### Weather Time

Have children take turns being the class meteorologist. Provide a large weather chart with appropriate labels, a map, a pointer, a jacket, and a "microphone".

### Graphing Favorites

Have children brainstorm favorite inside and outside winter activities. List them on a chart with the person's name who contributed the idea. Read the chart together. Make separate sentence-strip captions for each activity listed. Tape them to the wall. Have children indicate their favorites by writing their names on index cards and placing them under the appropriate selections. Discuss the graph's results.

WinterFun	
Inside	Outside
Sittingbyafire...Ann	Makingasnowman...Alan
Drinkinghotchocolate...Roy	Sledding...Alice
Drawingonfrostywindows...Mary	Throwingsnowballs...Mike

## CurriculumConnections

### Art

Have children draw and cut out houses and trees from colored paper and glue them onto dark blue construction paper. When the glue dries, they can use white liquid shoe polish (with sponge applicators) to create a winter weather scene. Encourage children to name and label their winter scenes.

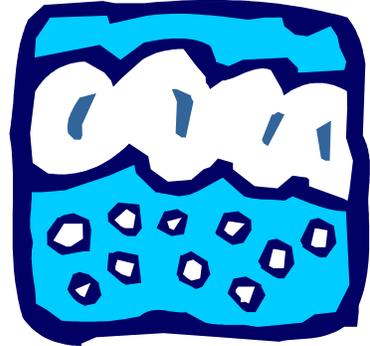
### Language Arts

Brainstorm summer and winter clothes, foods, and weather conditions. Compare and contrast these using Venn diagrams. Talk about the results.

## Activities:

### Smooth Scented Snow Scenes

Laminate large sheets of dark blue construction paper to use as art mats, or cover tables with dark blue plastic tablecloths. Squirt white shaving cream onto the mats, and have children finger-paint snow scenes in the scented foam. Ask them to describe their scenes to each other.

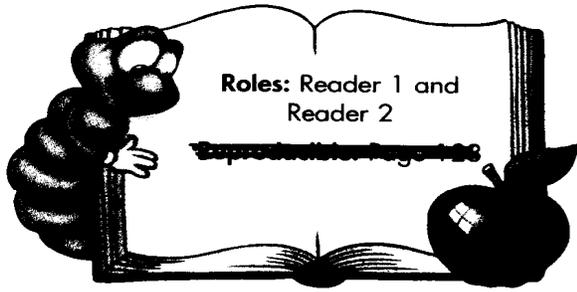


## Curriculum Connections

### P. E.

On a winter day, play "Toss the Snow Cloud." Have children take off their shoes to play in their sock feet on a rug or covered surface. Provide small stuffed pillows covered with white pillow cases sewn shut, or use large, inflated white balloons, for children to toss back and forth. The object of the game is to keep the snow cloud from touching the ground.





# Oatmeal Hot

By Dr. Maggie

## Reader 1

Oatmeal  
Oatmeal  
Oatmeal  
nine days

Some like it  
Some like it  
But no one likes it  
nine days

Oatmeal  
Oatmeal  
Oatmeal  
nine days

Some like it  
Some like it  
But no one likes it  
Not YOU,

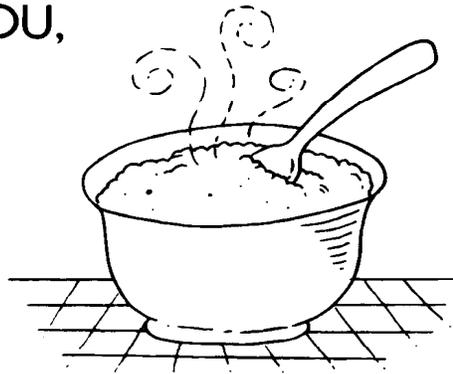
## Reader 2

hot.  
cold.  
in the pot  
old.

hot.  
cold.  
in the pot  
old!

hot.  
cold.  
in the pot  
old.

with milk.  
with tea.  
nine days old!  
and not ME!



# Activities:

## **Smooth Scented Snow Scenes**

Laminate large sheets of dark blue construction paper to use as art mats, or cover tables with dark blue plastic tablecloths. Squirt white shaving cream onto the mats, and have children finger-paint snow scenes in the scented foam. Ask them to describe their scenes to each other.

## **Snow Crystal Creations**

Make a mixture of half Epsom salts and half water. Have students use this mixture to paint pictures on black construction paper. As the pictures dry, "snow crystals" form. Prompt conversation about how this "magic" occurred (evaporation).

## **CurriculumConnections**

### **P.E.**

On a winter day, play "Toss the Snow Cloud." Have children take off their shoes to play in their sock feet on a rug or covered surface. Provide small stuffed pillows covered with white pillow cases sewn shut, or use large, inflated white balloons, for children to toss back and forth. The object of the game is to keep the snow cloud from touching the ground,

### **Math**

Count and eat "miniature snowballs" at snack time. Distribute ten miniature marshmallows to each child. Have children count them first by ones and then by twos, to ten. After counting, tell students: "Let the snowballs melt in your mouth-just like snow!"

Special As Can BE

By Dr. Maggie Allen

Oh, yes, I'm special.  
I'm very special.  
I'm special as can be.  
Oh, yes, I'm special.  
I'm very special.  
I'm special. Don't you agree?



Now I don't worry  
If I can't do things  
The very first time I try.  
I just keep trying  
Until I do them,  
But not with a whine or a cry.



Because I'm special,  
I'm very special.  
I'm special as can be.  
Oh, yes, I'm special.  
I'm very special.  
I'm special. Don't you agree?

