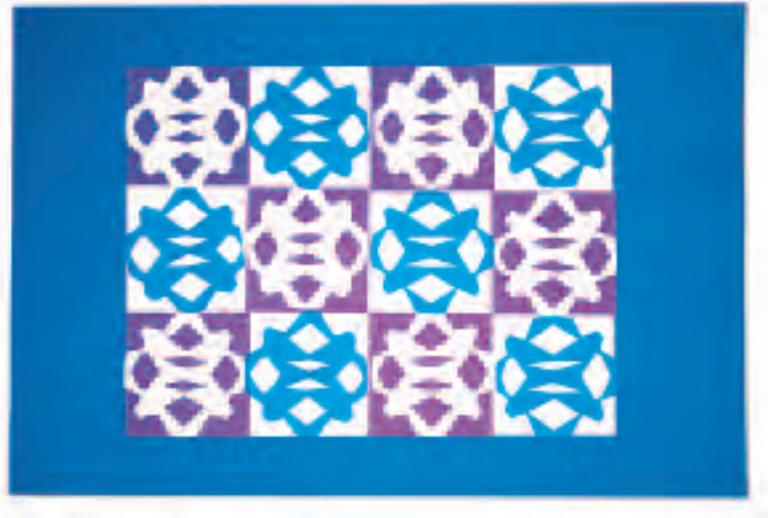


# Snowflake Banner

Use these pretty banners to explore and discuss the characteristics of snowflakes.

## Art Concepts

shape  
pattern  
contrasting colors  
positive and negative space



## Materials

### To display:

- pictures of snowflakes (see Related Reading for books featuring snowflake pictures)
- completed project

### For each child:

- 9- by 12-inch white construction paper
- six 3-inch squares of purple construction paper
- 3-inch circles of blue and white bulletin board paper (six of each color)
- pencil
- scissors

### To share:

- glue sticks

## Let's Begin

Display pictures of snowflakes and the completed project. Discuss the six-sided shape and other characteristics of snowflakes. Then, have children describe the similarities and differences between the pictures of snowflakes and the snowflakes on the banner. Afterward, point out the pattern created by the snowflakes and colors on the banner. Tell children that when dark and light colors are put together, they are called contrasting colors. Have them name the contrasting colors on the project. Inform children that the space occupied by each snowflake is positive space while the area surrounding it is negative space.

Tell children that they will make a snowflake banner using contrasting colors. Pass out the materials and demonstrate the procedures as children follow along.

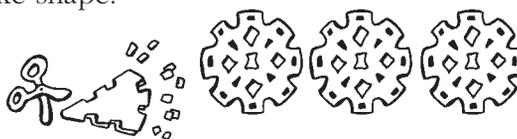
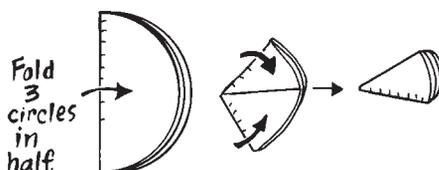


## Timesaving Tip!

To prepare the circles, cut the blue and white paper into 3-inch squares. Then, trace around a 15-ounce soup can or chip canister lid onto a stack of squares. Cut out the circle through all layers.

## Step by Step

1. Place the white paper horizontally on the table. Glue a purple square in the top and bottom corner on the left side of the paper. Using these squares as a guide, glue the other purple squares onto the paper to create a checkerboard pattern.
2. Stack and fold three white circles in half. Then, fold the half-circle into thirds. Use a pencil to draw one or more simple figures (such as triangles) along a straight side of the folded circles. Start and finish drawing each figure on the fold, leaving some space between each one. Continue by drawing figures along the other straight side and the curved edge of the folded circles.
3. Carefully cut out the figures through all layers. Unfold the circles to reveal a snowflake shape. Gently separate the three snowflakes.
4. Cut out a second set of snowflakes by repeating Steps 2 and 3 with the remaining three white circles. Then, cut snowflakes from the blue circles.
5. Position the white snowflakes onto the purple squares of the checkerboard paper to create a pattern. Then, glue on the snowflakes. Repeat with the blue snowflakes by gluing them in a pattern onto the white squares.



## One Step More

Glue the banner to a 12- by 18-inch sheet of blue or purple construction paper. Display the banners in a line across the top of a long wall to create a snowy border.



### Language Arts Link

Create a chart with the headings “One Syllable,” “Two Syllables,” and “Three Syllables.” Then, have children name snow-related words such as *snowflake*, *snowball*, *shower*, *shiver*, *melt*, *freeze*, *cold*, and so on. As a class, decide how many syllables each word contains. Invite a volunteer to write each word in the corresponding column on the chart. For more advanced children, write a list of snow-related words on chart paper. Ask children to work individually to create a chart and then copy the words onto the chart to show the syllable count of each word on the list.

### Related Reading



*Snow Is Falling* by Stuart J. Murphy (HarperTrophy, 2000)

*Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin (Houghton Mifflin, 1998)

*Snowflakes in Photographs* by W. A. Bentley (Dover Publications, 2000)