

Snowy Winter Scene

These snowy scenes make a great discussion-starter about how the seasonal weather of winter can change the landscape of your community.

Art Concepts

overlap
texture
pattern



Materials

To display:

- pictures of snow-covered landscapes
- completed project

For each child:

- 9- by 12-inch blue construction paper
- white chalk
- oil pastels

To share:

- scraps of gold foil wrapping paper
- scissors
- glue sticks

For paint-printing station:

- twelve 1-inch square sponges
- shallow trays of white tempera paint
- 12 wooden pencils with erasers

Let's Begin

Display the pictures of snow-covered landscapes. Explain that when snow falls it covers the ground, roofs, tree limbs, and many other objects. Ask children to describe how the scene might have looked before the snow fell. Then, show them the completed project. Point out how the overlapping buildings and objects give the scene a more realistic appearance. Tell children that the uneven coloring of the snow on the objects was created with sponge prints. This technique gives the snow a textured appearance and makes it seem more realistic. Finally, point out that the falling snow was created by repeating a pattern of sponge prints and pencil eraser prints.

Tell children that they will create a snowy winter scene of their own community. Pass out the materials and demonstrate the procedures as children follow along.



Timesaving Tip!

Set up a paint-printing station ahead of time. Cover a table with newspaper. Add a half-inch layer of moist paper towels to several paint trays. Then, place the trays, sponges, and pencils on the table. Just before beginning the activity, spread white paint onto the towels in each tray.

Step by Step

1. Place the 9- by 12-inch blue paper horizontally on the table. Use chalk to draw a horizontal line about three finger widths above the bottom edge of the paper. This line represents the ground for your picture.

2. Using chalk, sketch the buildings, trees, and other objects in your scene. As you draw, use an overlapping technique so that some objects (such as buildings) are partially hidden by other objects (such as trees).

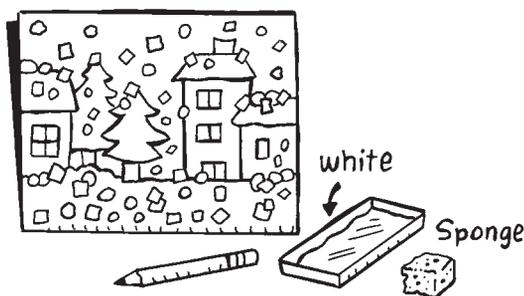


3. Trace the chalk drawing with a black oil pastel. Then, color the picture using pastels in the colors of your choice.

4. Cut out gold foil shapes to glue onto objects, such as the moon, windows, and street lamps, so that they appear to glow with light.

5. Take the project to the paint-printing station. Use sponge-prints to cover the ground, roofs, tree tops, and other objects with a layer of snow. Press the sponge lightly onto the picture to avoid printing a heavy coat of paint onto the objects.

6. For falling snow, sponge-print snowflakes randomly across your picture. Then, add eraser-print snowflakes to represent individual snowflakes.



One Step More

Create a wintry background by covering a bulletin board with sheets of snow felt. Then, attach the snowy winter scenes to the display.



Language Arts Link

Tell children that *snowy* begins with the blend *sn*. Ask them to brainstorm other words that begin with *sn*, such as *snack*, *sneak*, *snip*, *snore*, and *snug*. List their responses on chart paper. Then, have children use words from the list to make up a class wintry day story. Instruct them to take turns adding to the story so that every child has a chance to contribute. Later, you might challenge more advanced children to sort the words from the list by vowel types (such as long, short, and *r*-controlled) and then by the specific vowel sounds.

Related Reading



Names for Snow by
Judith K. Beach (Hyperion, 2003)

Snow Music by Lynne Rae Perkins
(Greenwillow, 2003)

Dear Rebecca, Winter Is Here
by Jean Craighead George
(HarperTrophy, 1995)