



## Activity 1      Fill in the Blanks – Winter Story

Print off a copy of this fill in the blank exercise and read it aloud. Fill in the missing words. Provide clues or assistance as necessary. After completing the fill in the blanks, discuss different activities that can be done with family and friends in the winter time. What was a favorite thing to do? Who did they do it with? Talk about any winter experience that happened. Draw on the past to create a personalized conversation. For example, did they grow up in the country or city, how high did the snow get in the winter, getting stuck in the snow, or perhaps a challenging driving experience?

### Answers

Cold

Skating

Hockey

Sledding/tobogganing

Mittens/gloves

Hat

Frost bitten

Sled

Snowmobile

Bombardier

Snowball

December 21/winter solstice

Drifts

In the winter time when the weather is \_\_\_\_\_, children are often seen \_\_\_\_\_ on a nearby pond. The young girls can be seen skating around in circles, while the young boys can be seen playing ice \_\_\_\_\_.

On a nearby hill there are children who are \_\_\_\_\_ down the big snowy hill. In cold temperatures children and adults must wear \_\_\_\_\_ to keep their hands warm, and a warm \_\_\_\_\_ to keep their head warm. When out in the cold temperatures it is important to keep warm because if you don't, you could get \_\_\_\_\_.

In the past people used to get around in the winter time using a horse and a \_\_\_\_\_. Now a days, people can travel on the snow using a \_\_\_\_\_. The snowmobile was invented by \_\_\_\_\_?

When you take a handful of snow and roll it up you make a \_\_\_\_\_?

On what day during the winter is the shortest day of the year

\_\_\_\_\_? When the wind blows snow, it can create \_\_\_\_\_?

## Activity 2

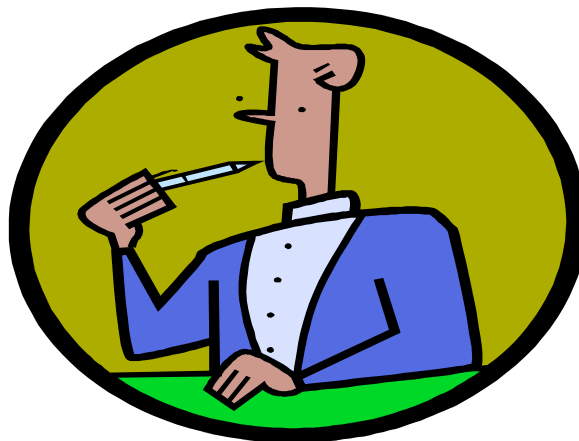
## Me and My Shadow

Canada and United States are two countries that pay attention to what a groundhog has to say, regarding how many more weeks of winter will be with us. To learn the history of Groundhog Day in Canada, go to the following website:

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2009/02/02/f-groundhog-day.html>



Try creating your own shadow by preparing the following: Gather the following items – a black marker, a large piece of white bristol board, (or 1 for each person) masking tape, a lamp with the shade removed. In a darkened room, tape the bristol board to a wall. Have several family members take turns sitting with their profile. Draw an outline with the marker of each person on the bristol board. Put a number on each piece of bristol board. Make a master list of the names of each person who had their profile drawn, and a corresponding number. Leave the sheets up, and see if other family members or friends can guess whose shadow has been drawn.



## **Activity 3      Backyard Bird Count**

Have you ever wondered how many birds there are out there? If you don't live in a place that has backyard trees, why not visit a park in your neighbourhood. Log onto <http://www.birdsource.org/> where you can download and print bird tally sheets for your area. Join other bird lovers and document how many birds you can identify each day, for the entire week.



## **Activity 4      Winter Crossword Puzzle**

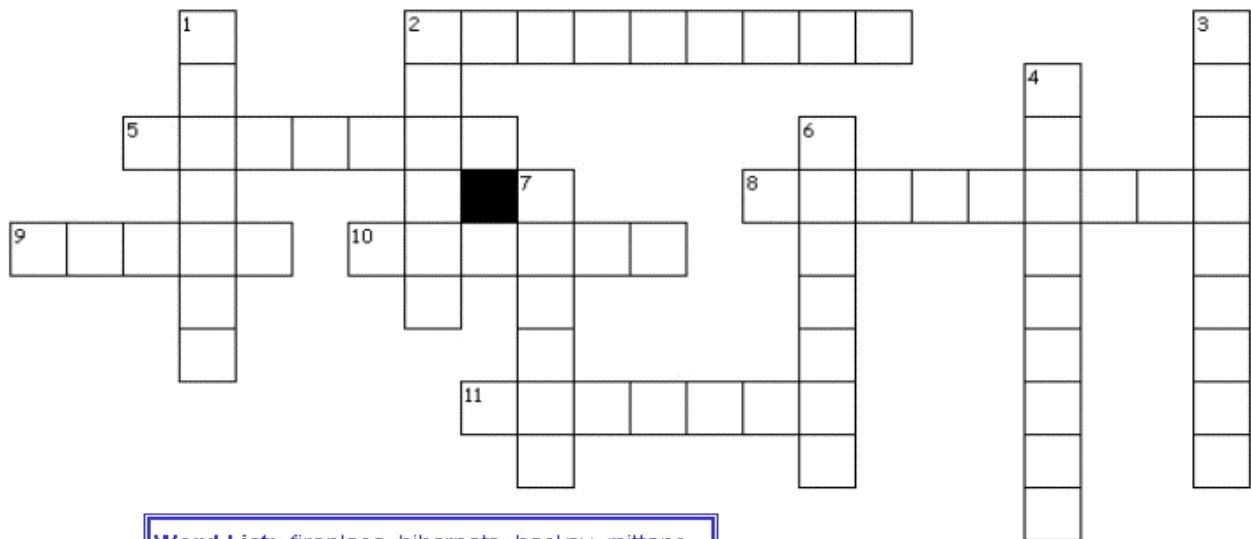
Use the following crossword with answer key or go to the following website for more interesting puzzles.

<http://www.dltk-holidays.com/winter/m-crossword.htm>

Or go to this website for more crosswords that are suitable for everyone.

<http://www.teach-nology.com/worksheets/misc/winter/cross>

# Winter Crossword



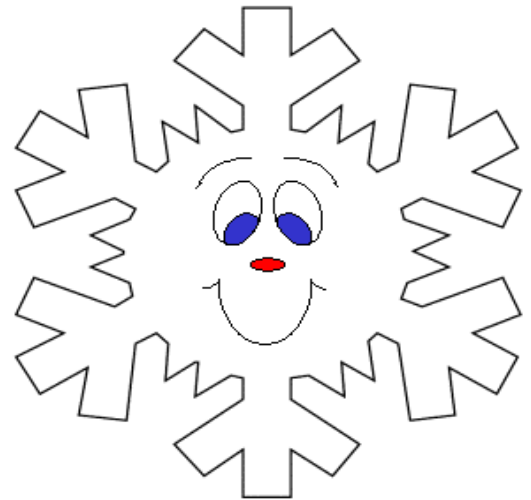
**Word List:** fireplace, hibernate, hockey, mittens, penguin, polarbear, skidoo, skiing, snowflake, snowman, sweater, white

## Across

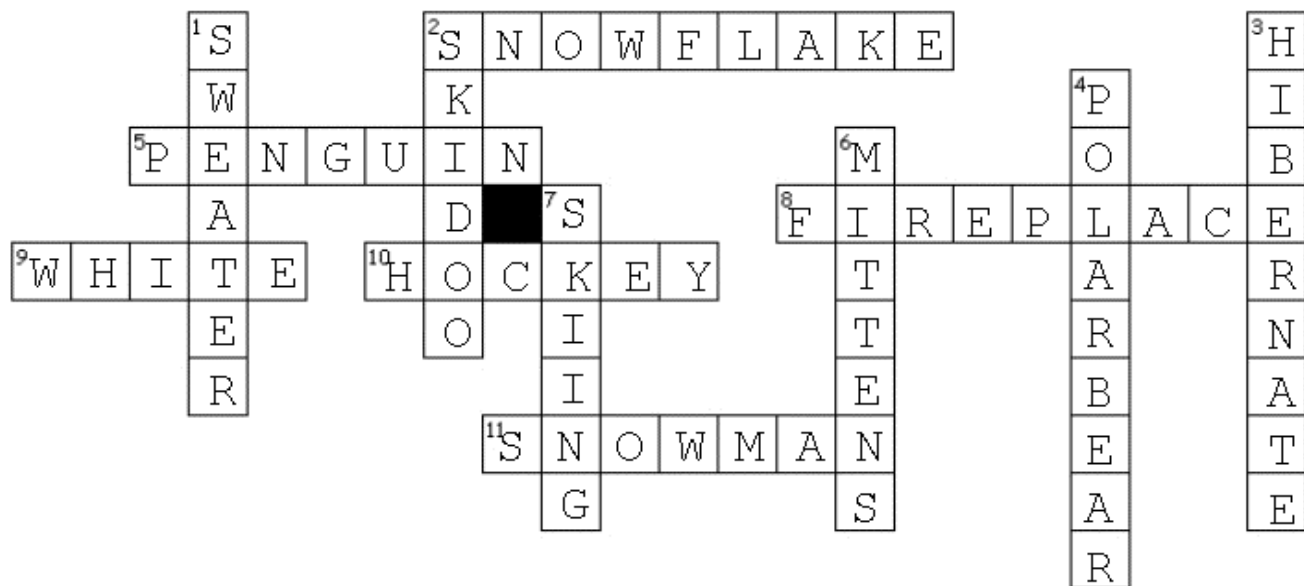
- no two are alike
- tuxedo with feathers
- light a fire here to keep warm on chilly days
- winter's favorite color
- twelve sticks and one puck
- frosty fellow with a carrot nose

## Down

- grandma will knit you one to keep you warm
- winter vehicle for off road travel
- some animals do this all winter
- white teddy
- covers for cozy hands
- strap two sticks on your feet and swoosh down a hill



# Winter Crossword

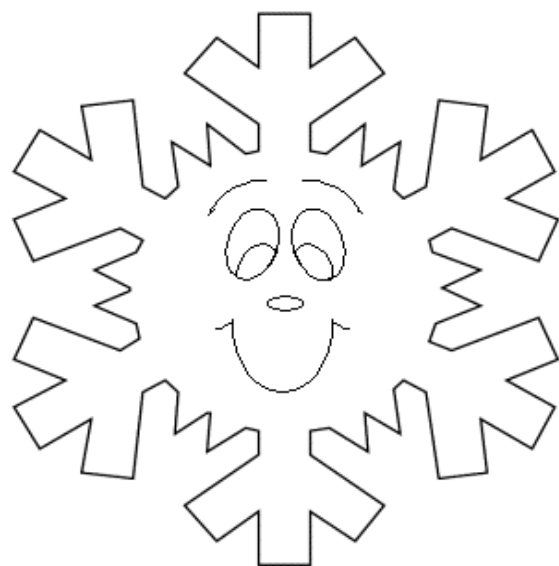


## Across

2. no two are alike
5. tuxedo with feathers
8. light a fire here to keep warm on chilly days
9. winter's favorite color
10. twelve sticks and one puck
11. frosty fellow with a carrot nose

## Down

1. grandma will knit you one to keep you warm
2. winter vehicle for off road travel
3. some animals do this all winter
4. white teddy
6. covers for cozy hands
7. strap two sticks on your feet and swoosh down a hill



## Activity 5      How Do Snowflakes Form?

Fun facts on snow – After reading these interesting facts, talk about whether or not you have tasted snow, shoveled snow, used a snow blower, walked in snow that was as high as your knees, etc.

<http://www.geology.com/articles/snowflakes>



## Activity 6      Animals That Live Outdoors In the Winter

If possible, go together for a walk in a park, conservation area or walking trail. Make sure that the area is cleared and allows for ease of movement. See if there are any animal tracks that you can identify. Talk about any memories you have about animals. Perhaps you had a cat or dog, and share your thoughts about those animals. Learn together about what various animal footprints look. You could draw a sample of some animal prints from the following website, to see what they would look like in the snow.

<http://kaweahoaks.com/html/extras3.htm>

Have a look at some beautiful pictures of animals in the snow.

[http://images.search.yahoo.com/search/images? adv\\_prop=image&fr=yhs-avg-chrome&sz=all&va=wildlife+snow](http://images.search.yahoo.com/search/images? adv_prop=image&fr=yhs-avg-chrome&sz=all&va=wildlife+snow)



## ACTIVITY 7 VALENTINE'S TRIVIA



Why not try to test your Valentine's Day knowledge with these questions. The answers, as well as more trivia questions, can be found on the following website: <http://www.kidsturncentral.com/games/trivia/vtrivia.htm>



Does the Date of Valentines Every change?

- No
- Yes
- Maybe



Which Patron Saint is Valentines named after?

- Saint Nick
- Saint Valentine
- Saint Aphrodite



What does the word Valentine mean?

- Heart
- Sweetheart
- Love



How did sailors send messages to their loved ones while at sea in the old days?

- Bottle
- Sea Post
- Carrier Pigeon




What fruit is also known as the "love apple"?

- Tomato
- Grape
- Apple




Sailors often scratched or carved designs on bone, tusk or wood to give as a love token, this hobby was called?


- Tatting
- Whittling
- Scrimshaw

 What is the winged child shooting arrows at unsuspecting Valentines called?


- Cupid
- Cherub
- Claude

 What part of the body must Cupid's arrows hit to be effective?


- Head
- Heart
- Rear end

 What is the Greek word for Cupid, God of Love?


- Eros
- Venus
- Zeus

 Who are Shakespeare's "Star-crossed Lovers"?


- King Tut and Cleopatra
- Romeo and Juliet
- Fred and Wilma

 What type of bird symbolizes Valentine's Day?


- Robin
- Dove
- Swan

 What happens to someone struck by Cupid's arrow?

- Lovesick
- Headache
- Measles

 Do doves mate for life?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

 According to English tradition - what happens "to the first man a woman sees on Valentine's Day?"

- Dies
- Marry Him
- Kiss Him



What flower is most commonly symbolic of Valentine's Day?

- Lilly
- Red Rose
- Poinsettia



What color is the symbol of warmth and feeling?

- Red
- Orange
- Yellow



What color is the symbol of purity and faith?

- Blue
- White
- Pink



What date was the first recorded Valentine sent?

- 1838
- 1415
- 1972



Where do you "wear your heart" if you are quick to show your feelings?

- Chest
- Hand
- Sleeve



What do you need to kiss to turn it into a Prince?

- Gerbil
- Frog
  
- Snake



## ACTIVITY 8      Milad-un-Nabi

The main thrust of the *Milad-un-Nabi* gatherings is to remember, observe, discuss and celebrate the advent of the birth and teachings of the holy Prophet Muhammad, p.b.u.h.

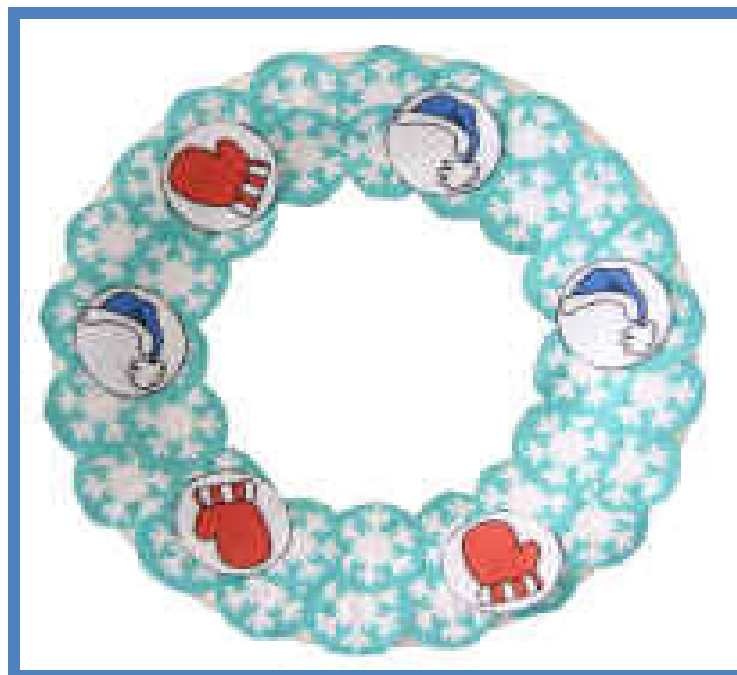
Learn about the celebration of the birth of Prophet Muhammad [p.b.u.h.](http://muslim-canada.org/milad.htm)

<http://muslim-canada.org/milad.htm>

## ACTIVITY 9      MAKE A WINTER WREATH CRAFT

Create a colorful snowflake and apparel wreath that can be hung in the kitchen, bedroom or front door. The following website provides templates and instructions for this activity that can be shared together.

<http://www.dltk-holidays.com/winter/index.html>



## ACTIVITY 10 FIND THE WORDS WITHIN

Start by writing a sentence in large print, on a full sheet of paper. An example might be: "It is extremely cold outside today". From the words contained within that sentence, mix up the letters to make other words. See how many words you can build. Record the other words below the sentence on the same piece of paper. You will be amazed at how many other words you can make – there are over 60. Here are few to get you started...

sit melt treat date loud yes meat you tool



## ACTIVITY 11 BRIGHTEN UP A WINTER DAY WITH FLOWERS

Bring home a lovely bouquet of mixed fresh flowers. Cut the stems and place one at a time into a vase. Talk about the various types of flowers in the bouquet. Put a ribbon or bow on the vase for extra decoration. For tips on ensuring the proper care for your fresh cut flowers, check out this website.

<http://www.newinhomes.com/articles/article.jsp?article=15>



## ACTIVITY 12      FAMILY DAY ACTIVITY - A MEMORY BOX



Find a container or box that has some special meaning. This could be an old jewellery box or even a shoe box. Cut strips of paper into 2 inch pieces. Each person must print 3 different words, on separate pieces of paper, in bold print, fold, and place in the box. Have each person choose one random word at a time. Each person must talk about a memory they have related to the word they picked. An example might be the word “car”. Talk about your first car, or describe your current car. Have you ever experienced a flat tire? Describe your driver’s examination test and so on. Continue until each person has had the opportunity to talk and listen to all of the words. This activity can be done at any family gathering, and used over and over with the creation of new words. Keep the box in the same place each time.



## Activity 13      Leap Year



Leap years are years with 366 days, instead of the usual 365. Leap years are necessary because the actual length of a year is 365.242 days, not 365 days, as commonly thought. Basically, leap years occur every 4 years, and years that are evenly divisible by 4 (2012, for example) has 366 days. This extra day is added to the calendar on February 29th.

A person born on February 29 may be called a “leapling” or a “leaper”. Technically, they celebrate their birthdays only once every four years.

Learn about the Leap Day, as well as the Leap Year, and how many cultures have adapted their calendars to accommodate this extra day, from this following site.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leap\\_year](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leap_year)

An enjoyable activity to celebrate this day is a game called Leap Frog Toss. On a large plastic/vinyl table cloth, use black markers to draw a large grid with squares about eight inches in diameter. Record the numbers of future years in each square. Draw a red circle around the years that will be leap years. Using bean bags, take turns tossing the beans bags onto the grid trying to avoid the leap years. Draw some eyes on the top of each bean bag, so they will act as “frogs”. Or instead, try to intentionally hit the years circled in red.