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## Theme: Celebrating Winter


## Beginning

 A small tree should be attached to the wall at the children's eye level. Prepare a snowflake from white construction paper for each child with his or her name on it. As each child enters the kindergarten room, he or she should find the snowflake with his or her name on it and attach it to the tree.



Introduce the season of winter by bringing in items that are particular to this time of year. Some items might include mittens, caps, coats, scarves, rubber boots, ice skates, hockey sticks, and hot chocolate. Gather the children and show them these objects. Talk about the season of winter. Explain that in winter, the leaves that have turned colors have all fallen off the trees and the weather starts to get even colder.

Teach the children the following song:

 **Winter's Here** (To the tune of "Frère Jacques")

**Winter's here, winter's here.**

**White snowflakes, white snowflakes;**


**Mittens and hot chocolate, mittens and hot chocolate;**

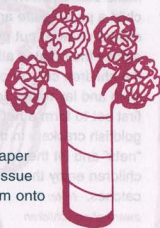
**Celebrate! Celebrate!**


## Middle

Pass out a copy of the *Unit Page* to each child. Explain that the pictures show people having fun doing things in winter. Invite the children to make up a story about each picture. Ask the children what they like to do in winter.

## End

 Make "A Snowy Day Tree." Give each child an empty paper towel spool. Have the children paint this brown. Cut several slits in the top and bend the strips outward to form branches. Have the children put a thin layer of glue on these branches. Give the children white tissue paper squares. Show them how to crumple the tissue squares to make snowflakes and stick them onto the glue-covered branches.



 Make "Wonderful Winter Trees" together. Give each child a round sugar cookie. Have the children cover this with whipped cream. Then have the children sprinkle sparkly sugar on the whipped cream. Give each child a rectangular chocolate-covered cookie stick to use as a tree trunk. Enjoy with hot chocolate. *Note: Be aware of any children with food allergies before using this activity.*

# Extra! Extra!



## A Handprint Winter Tree

Paint each child's forearm brown (the tree-trunk) and stamp this onto a piece of light blue construction paper. Paint the child's hand (with fingers open wide) brown. Help the child stamp this at the top of the trunk to complete the tree. White paint may be sponged on to add snow to the tree branches.



Read any of the following books:

*Snowballs*, by Lois Eklert, published by Harcourt Brace & Company, (San Diego, CA) 1995.

*The Big Snow*, by Berta and Elmer Hader, published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, (New York) 1976.

*When Winter Comes*, by Robert Maass, published by Henry Holt and Company, Inc., (New York) 1996.

*The Hat*, by Jan Brett, published by The Putnam Publishing Group, (New York) 1997.

*The Jacket I Wear in the Snow*, by Shirley Neitzel, published by William Morrow & Company, (New York) 1994.

*The Mitten*, by Jan Brett, published by The Putnam Publishing Group, (New York) 1996.

*The Snowy Day*, by Ezra Jack Keats, published by Viking Children's Books, (New York) 1998.

## Additional Suggestions for Storytime During Unit 2

Berenstain, Jan and Stan. *Berenstain Bears and the Week at Grandma's*. New York: Random House, Inc., 1986.

Buckley, Helen E. *Grandfather and I*. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepherd Books, 1994.

Carle, Eric. *Let's Paint a Rainbow*. New York: Scholastic, Inc., 1998.

dePaola, Tomie. *First Christmas*. New York: Putnam Publishing Group, 1984.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Friendly Beasts, An Old English Christmas Carol*. New York: Putnam Publishing Group, 1998.

Dunbar, Joyce. *This Is the Star*. San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace & Co., 1998.

Everitt, Betsy. *Mean Soup*. San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1995.

Hennessy, B.G. *The First Night*. New York: Viking Children's Books, 1993.

Hoffman, Mary. *Amazing Grace*. New York: Scholastic, Inc., 1991.

Keats, Ezra Jack. *The Little Drummer Boy*. New York: Simon & Schuster Children's Book, 1972.

Lucado, Max. *Jacob's Gift*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc., 1998.

Pfister, Marcus. *The Christmas Star*. New York: North-South Books, 1993.

Slate, Joseph. *Who Is Coming to Our House?* New York: The Putnam Publishing Group, 1996.

Wilde, Oscar. *The Selfish Giant*. New York: The Putnam Publishing Group, 1995.

Wildsmith, Brian. *Creation*. Brookfield CT: Millbrook Press, 1996.



## Materials for Lesson 9, Part 1:

- Activity Page 35
- pictures of the sun, stars, water, plants, animals, people
- tagboard
- stick velcro
- carpet square

## Theme: We thank God for the gift of living things.

### Purpose:

• to help the children explore the wonders of creation in both living and non-living things.

### Beginning



As the children enter the room, have Sudie Squirrel welcome them. Then help the children find the snowflakes with their names on them and place them on the tree.

Gather the children around you. Talk about the living things in our world. Include in this discussion people, animals, fish, birds, trees, and flowers. If possible, take the children for a walk outside or look out a window to see some other living things. You may want to show the children pictures of a variety of living things throughout the world. Explain some ways we experience living things and benefit from them.

Teach the children the following song:

### God's Great Big World (To the tune of "London Bridge")

God gave us our great big world,  
Great big world,  
Great big world.  
God gave us our great big world.  
God, we thank you.

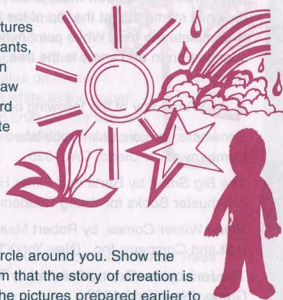
Children all around the world,  
'Round the world,  
'Round the world,  
Children all around the world:  
God, we thank you.

### Middle

Pass out a copy of *Activity Page 35* to each child. Read the top of the page to the group. Have the children look at the outdoor scene showing many living things God has created. Ask the children how we can know whether something is alive. Ask how many living things they can find. Have the children color all the things that are alive.

### End

Ahead of time prepare pictures of the sun, stars, water, plants, animals, people, and so on from the creation story. Draw or mount these on tagboard and cut out. Color, laminate for durability, and attach a piece of sticky velcro to the back. Use a carpet remnant or square as the background.



Gather the children in a circle around you. Show the children the Bible. Tell them that the story of creation is in this special book. Use the pictures prepared earlier to tell the children that God made all these living things in our world. Have the children illustrate the things that God made for them in their Bible booklets. Write across each child's page the word *Creation*.

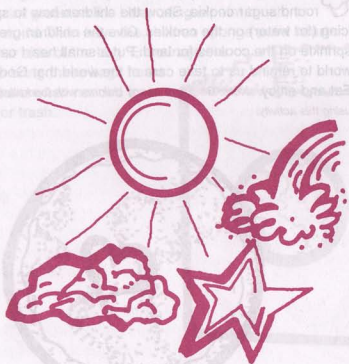


Gather the children around the prayer table and lead them in the following prayer: "Dear God, thank you for all your gifts of creation. Amen."

# Extra! Extra!



Read the book *Creation* by Brian Wildsmith.



## Materials for Part 2:

- Activity Page 36
- round sugar cookies
- blue icing
- green sugar
- small heart candies

## Our Wonderful World (Part 2)

**Theme:** We are able to help care for God's world.

### Purpose:

• to help the children experience and care for all of creation as a gift to us from God.

### Beginning

Before the children enter the room, make a mess of the toys, put trash on the floor, and have the chairs in disarray.



As the children enter the room, have Sudie Squirrel welcome them. Then help the children find the snowflakes with their names on them and place them on the tree.

Gather the children in a circle on the floor. Tell the children that Sudie was very upset when she came to kindergarten today. Tell the children to look what has happened to our room. Ask the children what we should do about it. Lead the children to the conclusion that we should clean up the mess and always take care of our room and our world so it never looks like this. Invite the children to help you clean up and put things back in order.

### Middle

Pass out a copy of *Activity Page 36* to the children. Read the first paragraph to the group. Call the children's attention to the illustrations on the bottom of the page and on the side. Tell the children they are going to show how they can care for our world. Help the children cut out the pictures on the bottom of the page

and glue them where they belong. Read the biblical quote at the bottom of the page. Remind the children that everything God made is good.

### End



Let the children enjoy a "Worldly Snack." Give each child a round sugar cookie. Show the children how to spread blue icing (for water) on the cookies. Give the children green sugar to sprinkle on the cookies for land. Put a small heart candy on the world to remind us to take care of the world that God gave us. Eat and enjoy. *Note: Be aware of any children with food allergies before using this activity.*



Gather the children around the prayer table and lead them in the following prayer: "Dear God, thank you for making the world and everything in it. Help us always to take good care of your wonderful gifts. Amen."



# Extra! Extra!



## World Class Bags

Provide a brown paper bag for each child. Help the children sponge a large blue circle on one side of the bag. Have the children paint green on the blue, using a paint brush, to make the world. Then have the children sponge paint hearts on the other side of the bag. Encourage the children to bring these bags home and use them when needed for recycling or trash.



### Materials for Part 3:

- Read to Me Page 37
- a large bowl
- water
- clay
- popsicle sticks
- tissue paper
- plastic fish, animals, and people

## Our Wonderful World (Part 3)

**Theme:** God made all living things.

### Purpose:

- to help the children appreciate God's gifts of all living things.

### Beginning

As the children enter the room, have Sudie Squirrel welcome them. Then help the children find the snowflakes with their names on them and place them on the tree.

Gather the children in a group around the table. Turn the lights off in the room. On the table, place a large bowl. Tell the children that God made everything. To celebrate God's creation we will make a miniature world. Follow the steps below:

- Pour a small amount of water into the bowl.
- Put clay in the bowl for earth and stick trees made from popsicle sticks and tissue paper into the clay.
- Have the children hold up cut-outs of the sun, moon and stars.
- Float plastic fish in the water in the bowl.
- Add plastic animals and people to the clay in the bowl.




### Middle

Pass out a copy of the *Read to Me Page 37* to the children. Draw the children's attention to the illustrations. Tell the children you are going to read them a story about life on a farm and that what makes this story so unique is that it is really a poem. Ask the children, "Who made all living things?" Then read the entire poem. Discuss each stanza with the children, pointing out all the living things we see and hear on the farm.

### End

Gather the children in a circle on the floor. Teach them the following song:

 **God Made Everything** (To the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

God made the earth and God made the sky.  
 God made the fish and the birds that fly.  
 Animals, flowers, trees so tall,  
 God made everything, great and small.  
 God made all the things I see.  
 God made you and God made me.



Gather the children around the prayer table. Place the props used in the beginning of this lesson on the prayer table. Lead the children in the following prayer: "Dear God, thank you for the gift of the world. Amen."

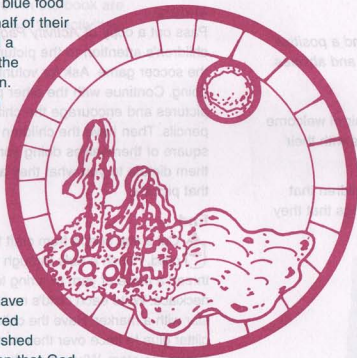
# Extra! Extra!



## A Small World

Give each child a paper plate. Have the children spread prepared whipped topping (with blue food coloring added) on the bottom half of their plates for water. Give each child a vanilla wafer cookie to place at the top of his or her plate for the sun.

To make land, have the children crush graham crackers in zippered plastic bags and sprinkle this along the top of the “water.” Have the children make trees by adding pieces of green fruit roll-ups to pretzel sticks. Tell the children to place these on the land. Animal crackers can be added to the land as well. To make flowers, have the children place rainbow-colored fruit flavored candies on the crushed graham crackers. Tell the children that God created people, too—the ones who will now eat this lovely “creation.” *Note: Be aware of any children with food allergies before using this activity.*



## Materials for Lesson 10, Part 1:

- Activity Page 39
- a pretend microphone
- craft foam
- yarn or string
- glitter glue
- an instant camera