



DECEMBER

Christmas Crafts



BIG QUESTION

What's your favorite Christmas tradition in your family?

MOVIE TIME (5 min)

Say: **Later today we'll make some mittens, but animals don't get to have thick jackets or mittens to keep them warm. Let's learn about how animals that live in snow can stay warm!**

<https://youtu.be/ON7FGPeykfE?si=UVbN2tGVmVz0C86A>

WRITING CONTEST (20 min)

STORY CONTEST: WRITE & ILLUSTRATE YOUR TALE!

For complete details and guidance, refer to the additional resources.

Say: **We will be participating in a Story Contest. This is your chance to write and illustrate your own story! Over the next week to week a half, you'll create a story about an approved topic, add your own illustrations, and design a cool cover. The winners will receive a prize from STEM Taught, and their stories will get published in STEM Taught's school programs. This is a very special and exciting opportunity, so, get creative, take your time, and remember, it's always okay to ask for help. I can't wait to see what you come up with!**

Materials:

- Paper
- Pencils
- Construction paper
- Craft supplies
- Optional: Laptops

STEM TIME

(60 min)

Materials:

- Construction paper
- White paint
- Paintbrushes
- Glue
- Christmas color pompoms
- Paper towels

HANDPRINT MITTENS**Instructions:**

1. Each student will trace the shape of a large mitten on a piece of construction paper. The STEM coach may help the younger students if needed.
2. Student will carefully use scissors to cut along the lines to create the mitten shape.
3. The students will use a paintbrush to cover their hand with white paint. Make sure the whole hand is covered, but not too much paint so it doesn't drip!
4. Next, they will gently press their painted hand onto the mitten shape. Make sure the hand is flat when pressing it, so the handprint shows clearly. After pressing the hand, each student will carefully lift their hand to reveal the handprint on the mitten.
5. Send the students to the sink to wash their hands and paintbrushes, and provide them with paper towels to dry off.
6. Once the handprint dries a little, each student will use glue to add Christmas color pompoms around the wrist of their mitten.



GAME TIME

(60 min)

Materials:

- Lots of "snowballs"! Giant pom-poms work best, but tightly wadded pieces of paper will work too.



Materials:

- Candy canes
- Chocolate kisses



SNOWBALL FIGHT

1. Move desks and chairs out of the way to create a big open space. Place a strip of masking tape or jump ropes down the middle of the room to mark the dividing line. Split the students into two teams. You can have boys on one side and girls on the other, or mix the teams with boys and girls.
2. Count the snowballs (pom-poms or wadded paper) and split them evenly into two piles—one on each side of the dividing line. Remember: No one can touch the snowballs until the game begins!
3. On the count of three, yell, "Snowball Fight!" Students will race to pick up snowballs and throw them across the line to the other team's side.
4. Set a timer for 1 or 2 minutes. When the timer goes off, yell, "Stop!"
5. Each team will gather the snowballs on their side and count how many they have. The team with the least snowballs on their side wins that round!
6. Take all the snowballs and redistribute them so that each team has the same number. Reset the timer, and go again!

Important Notes:

- This game is loud, active, and crazy, and the kids absolutely love it!
- Make sure to play safely and take turns throwing snowballs to keep it fun for everyone!

CANDY CANES AND KISSES HUNT

Instructions:

1. Place mini wrapped candy canes and chocolate kisses around the room for the hunt.
2. Everyone will search for candy, but there are some special rules to follow. Each person can only find 2 candy canes and 2 chocolate kisses during the first round. Once they find their 2 candy canes and 2 chocolate kisses, students will go back to their seat. Remind them to not take more than 2 of each type of candy—leave any extras for others to find.
3. After everyone has found their 2 candy canes and 2 chocolate kisses and returned to their seat, they can go back out and search for any remaining candy (no limits!).
4. Ready, set, go! Enjoy the hunt!