

Winter Fun

Olen Soifer, January 27, 2007

REAL SNOW CONES – Pack clean, freshly fallen, snow into paper cups and drizzle with sweet syrups for a chilling treat! Lots of things can be used, such as:

- ❖ Maple Syrup
- ❖ Any concentrated liquid drink mix
- ❖ Any thawed, frozen juice concentrate like orange, grape or cranberry
- ❖ Any milk flavoring syrup: Strawberry, chocolate, caramel

ICE CREAM FROM SNOW – Beat 2 Egg Yolks until very pale yellow. Whisk 1 / 2 cup of sugar into a cup of milk until dissolved. Whisk the egg yolks into the milk and cook until it thickens. Stir constantly. Cool down in refrigerator until very thick, but not quite to pudding consistency. Stir in fresh powdery snow until the milk mixture is fully absorbed by snow. Freeze, stirring once or twice to make sure the mixture is uniform. Enjoy!

SNOWMAN KIT – In a 1-gallon Zip-Lock bag, (the kind with a slider is best), assemble all of the things you need to decorate a snow man: Label the baggie: **Snowman Kit: Just Add Snow!**

- ❖ Any old man's hat
- ❖ A pair of inexpensive cotton gloves or any old pair of gloves
- ❖ A dozen flat pebbles, spray-painted black with a 2" piece of bamboo skewer hot-glued to the back of each (holds them to the snow better than just pressing them on) – Use for mouth, eyes & buttons.
- ❖ A plastic carrot or piece of cardboard rolled into a cone and painted orange
- ❖ Dry 2 pieces of peel off an orange that was cut in thirds for ears. Or, cut a round plastic lid in half. Use your imagination.
- ❖ A couple of twigs for arms...short enough to still fit in the baggie.
- ❖ Any old piece of cloth long enough for a scarf--such as the legs of a pair of pants cut into a wide strip; or an old curtain cut down into a wide strip..
- ❖ A coffee scoop stuck in a thin tube (such as one from a wire hanger). Paint it black and use for the pipe.

COLORFUL SNOWMEN – Mix some food coloring or laundry bluing in water in an old sprayer. Then use to dye your snowman colors!

DECORATIONS FROM PINECONES – Gather a bag of pinecones before the ground is covered with snow. Then, when it is too cold to play outside, you can have fun turning them into decorations. You can paint them with spray paint (silver or gold is pretty) or any kind of waterproof paint. Or put glue on them and then glitter. Use string or pipe cleaners to make loops to hang them. You can also use string to make a long chain of pinecones.

SNOWFLAKE DECORATIONS FROM PIPE CLEANERS AND BEADS – Connect three pipe cleaners together in the middle and then spread all the arms out evenly to make a star. Use more pipe cleaners around the outside so the star shape is rigid. Paint with glue and glitter. ALSO, before the outside is attached, you can string clear beads onto the star's arms.

WAGON WHEEL MACARONI SNOW FLAKES – Glue wagon wheel macaroni onto a piece of paper into the form of a 6 pointed star. Paint it white. Then after it dries, you can glue and glitter it. When completely dry, you can carefully cut away all paper between the arms.

PERMANENT SNOW MAN – Blow up three balloons, one bigger than the other. CAREFULLY glue them together to make a snowman shape and let it dry. Wrap the whole shape tightly with plastic cling wrap. (The new self-stick kind is especially good.) Be careful not to pop the balloons yet. Then glue packing foam "popcorn/peanuts" or real popcorn onto the whole thing. Use old buttons or construction paper for eyes, mouth & buttons, or paint them on. Add small twigs for arms and construction paper mittens. After it is completely dry, you can pop the balloons inside with a pin, or just let them deflate by themselves. You can use more "peanuts" around the bottom to make it stable.

BE A TRACKER – Snow makes animal and bird tracks visible. Can you follow them and guess what kind of animal made the tracks?