

NATURE ADVENTURE

ACTIVITY CARDS

AGES 7-11

Children
& Nature
Network

*Use these cards as
inspiration to get out into
nature and have some fun
with family and friends!*

*You will find four cards, each with
different activity suggestions
for winter fun!*

1 LEAP IN!

*A simple adventure you can go on
in almost any outdoor location –
from the park, to your own yard or
balcony.*

3 SPEAK UP!

*You and your family (and friends!)
can play with words, tell about
adventures, or even make up a song!*

2 PLAY ON!

Bring out the creative side in you!

4 GREEN UP!

*Stewardship is the theme here,
and in this activity, you will help
animals or local areas thrive
because of what you do!*

HAVE FUN!



WINTER FUN

1

LEAP IN!
AGES 7-11

BE AN OTTER

Did you know that river otters sometimes slide on their bellies across the snow? These paths are called otter slides. Otter slides made in winter snow are typically 12 or more inches wide, and as long as 25 feet. You too can be an otter in winter with these simple steps:

step 1

Make sure you're dressed warmly, with a smooth, water-resistant layer over your middle.

step 2

Find a short hill (not too steep) with good, slick snow, and not too many trees, bushes or rocks in the way.

step 3

Push yourself down the slope—head first! The first trip may be a little slow (even otters have to push themselves along), but you should get faster and faster as the track gets set.

step 4

Repeat and repeat. Feel the otter joy!

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WINTER FUN

SNOW BIRDS, SNOW BUNNIES

Who says you can only make a snowperson with your winter snow? Next time you have a good winter storm, try sculpting some local wildlife instead. Here are some examples of North American winter creatures just waiting to be shaped by your mittened hands:

- MOOSE
- RABBIT
- SQUIRREL
- EAGLE
- RACCOON
- BEAVER
- OWL
- DEER

3

SPEAK UP!
AGES 7-11

WINTER FUN

PERFECT WINTER POEMS

*Creatures hide in dens and burrows.
Only three months of the year here.
Love to play in the snow.
Drinking hot chocolate is the best.*

In an acrostic poem the first letters of each line spell out a word or phrase, like the poem above. Now it's your turn! Think about winter weather, animals and activities and see what inspires you to write a winter themed acrostic poem. Here's how:

step 1

Decide what to write about. You can choose one word or a phrase, or even a sentence.

step 2

Write your word down vertically.

step 3

Brainstorm words or phrases that describe your idea.

step 4

Place your brainstormed words or phrases on the lines that begin with the same letters.

step 5

Fill in the rest of the lines to create a poem.

step 6

Write or print out the final draft of your poem. Make an illustration to go with it.

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WINTER FUN

4

GREEN UP!
AGES 7-11

WINTER WRAP-UP

The animals in your neighborhood have all sorts of adaptations that help them survive even the coldest winter. But that doesn't mean we can't do our part to help them out. Try a few of these ideas to help local birds, mammals, and other creatures weather the winter:

1

Let your yard be a little bit wild. If you leave plant stems, stacks of wood, rock piles, and layers of leaves in and around your yard and garden, you'll be giving small animals some good places to tuck away for the cold season.

2

Set out a bird feeder. Bird feeders can really help birds stay nourished when food is scarce. Try checking with your local Audubon Society to find out what kind of food you should leave out.

3

Drive with care. Snowfall makes streets narrow. And some animals are attracted to the salt used to help melt snow and ice. Make sure your parents drive carefully to keep animals safe.

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