

A close-up photograph of a squirrel with grey and brown fur, sitting in a snowy environment. The squirrel is holding a red nut in its paws and is in the process of eating it. Its tail is large and bushy, with a mix of brown and grey fur. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white snow.

Winter Unit
for Special Education

Preview



by Christa Joy

Winter Lesson Plan

Preparation

- Print out a vocabulary board for each student to use throughout unit
 - Laminate or place in page protector
- Book
 - Print out, laminate, and bind
 - OR your students can listen to the pre-recorded version

Preassessment (do day 1 before starting lesson)

- Choose the form of the quiz that best fits the learning level of your students
- Give the quiz to assess what your students may already know
- I cannot emphasize enough how important this step is. If you want to see growth, this preassessment is so important!!

Teaching Tips

1. **Color Coding:** this is a really easy way to add more structure to a matching activity. Outline or color in an empty box or sorting label. Outline or color in the corresponding picture symbols the same colors. Becomes a color matching task.
 - a. For more info, read more here: <https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2015/09/05/using-color-coding-for-differentiation/>
 - b. I also have a blog post on differentiating one activity 3 ways: <https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2018/10/22/differentiating-1-activity-3-ways-easily-and-effectively/>
2. **Make your own copies of the activities.** Every day I review the activity we did yesterday. For that reason:
 - a. I often complete the activity myself and often laminated it for easy review that I could use year after year.
 - b. My copies were also helpful as either a model for students who needed more support or as a way for more advanced students to self-check their work.
3. **Options for Use.** Turn any activity into a reusable file folder activity by laminating and adding Velcro.



Quick Look

Day	Activity
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab board activity • Circle map
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab board activity • Sorting activity
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab board activity • Sorting activity
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab board activity • Addition practice
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab board activity • Subtraction practice
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab board activity • Spelling activity
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Writing Prompt
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Sorting activity

Day 3

Activity	Notes	Materials
Read or listen to a recording of the book: Winter (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read through the story, asking lots of questions • Continue to make connections between book and vocabulary board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocabulary board
Scavenger Hunt with vocabulary board (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paste the symbols around the room • Students walk around with their vocabulary board looking for matching symbols • Place a sticky note on their board covering the symbols as they find them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocabulary board cut apart • tape • Vocabulary board
Sorting activity review (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the sorting activity completed yesterday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed activity from yesterday
Sorting activity (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the sorting activity on winter vs summer • Use color coding if needed (See worksheet for more details) • There are 2 different sorts included. Either choose one or do both if your students can tolerate it. The color sorting task is perfect for your early learners. • Make connections to the book as necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sorting activity • Scissors • Glue
Sharing (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each student shares their finished worksheets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed worksheet • Communication devices

Winter starts December **21**.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6			9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER

Sleet is rain that freezes into ice.



22 page book on winter

Many animals **hibernate** during the winter, or



Kwanzaa starts on December 26 which is during the winter.



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids

12 page book on winter holidays

We remember our past presidents during February in the winter.



President's Day

Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids

St Patrick's Day is also in the winter. It is March 17.



St. Patrick's Day

winter	cold	short days	snowing	snowman
sled	ski	hibernate	migrate	cap
mittens	December	21	Christmas	seasons
repeat that	I like that	I don't like that	I don't know	I need a break

Vocabulary board

snowman	snowball	freezing	snowsuit	flip flops
bathing suit	ice	sled	ski	December 21
cap	mittens	hot	board shorts	hot chocolate
snowsuit	August	scarf	jacket	snowflake

Circle map



Hibernate	Migrate
-----------	---------

3 sorting activities

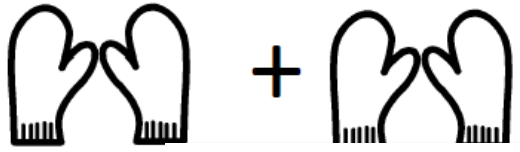
bear	goose	duck	squirrel
hedgehog	skunk	pelican	heron
groundhog	eagle	mouse	sea gull

snowman	snowball	freezing	snowsuit	snowflake
snowing	ice	sled	ski	December 21
cap	mittens	scarf	jacket	hot chocolate

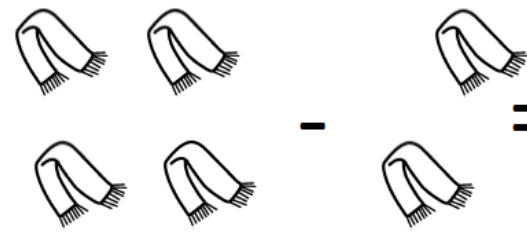
Errorless version


 $3 = \square$

Addition practice

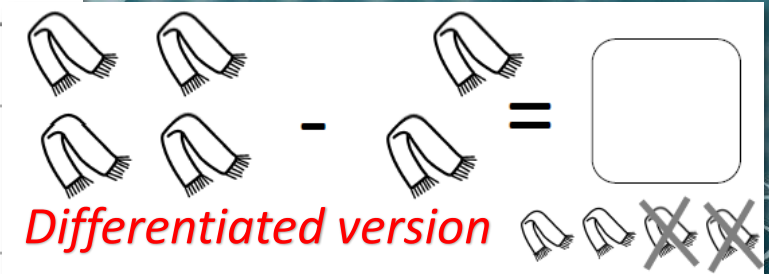

 $2 + 2 = \square$

10	8	3	5
9			

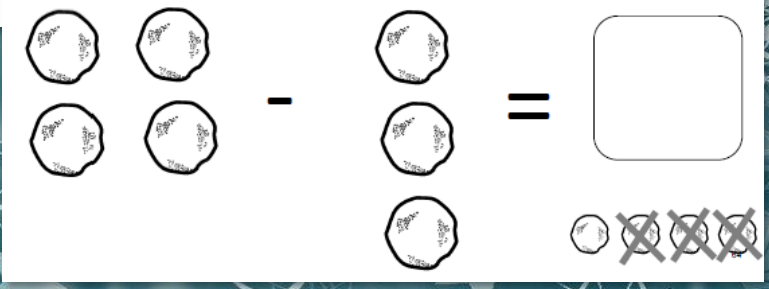

 $5 - 1 = \square$

Subtraction practice


 $6 - 3 = \square$


 $5 - 2 = \square$

Differentiated version


 $6 - 4 = \square$

Spelling practice



s n o w



c o l d



s c a r f



c o a t

s	n	o	r	f	c
i	h	a	t	c	o
s	c	a	e	w	t
l	d	a	c	o	