



LESSON 14 LEVEL B WINTER SCENES

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

making a snow scene with mixed media

WHAT YOU WILL NEED: white construction paper 30 x 45.5 cm (12" x 18"); colored chalk; white tempera paint; clear gloss acrylic polymer medium (such as Hyplar (TM) or Liquitex (TM) from an art supply store; a 2.5 cm (1 inch) cube of cellulose sponge (cut a cube from a corner of a kitchen or bath sponge); scraps of colored tissue paper; 1.2 cm (1/2 inch) stiff bristle paintbrush; scissors; newspaper to cover the work surface.

"TIPS": This is a 2 part lesson with sessions at least a day apart. For the first session, mix 30 ml (2 tablespoons) of white tempera paint with 10 ml (2 teaspoons) of the acrylic medium. This will keep the paint from smearing later in the lesson. With water, wet and squeeze out the sponge. After toning the paper with chalk, you will dab the mixture over the whole surface with the sponge to make a lacy, snowy effect. After it dries, you will cut shapes from tissue paper. Then you will fasten them to the background with acrylic medium not mixed with

A SNOWY DAY



Ezra Jack Keats *The Snowy Day* (detail)

Getting Started: Read *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats. Study the illustrations. What people, trees, houses, etc. could you include in a snowy day scene in *your* neighborhood? You are going to do a two-part lesson that will turn out like one of Mr. Keats' story-book pictures.

1. Use the sides of broken pieces of chalk to color all over your white paper. Use mostly light, pale colors like pink, light blue, yellow, and pale green. . . here, there, and everywhere. This process is called "*toning*."



paint to make a snow scene. Cover your work surface with newspaper.

NO SNOW? When it snows really hard for a whole day, the snow piles up. If it is windy, the snow may be blown into big drifts. The sounds of a city get muffled. Cars and buses can't move easily. When the snow stops, snowplows clear the streets, leaving huge piles of snow next to the street. People have to shovel the snow off their sidewalks. That snow goes on the snow banks the plows left behind. Sometimes these snow banks are taller than you are. They are fun to play on. You can make slides to slide down or play King of the Hill. Playing in snow is cold, wet fun. Going inside and having hot chocolate, when you are also cold and wet, is fun too.



Masako Age 9

the fold while you cut, you can make some symmetrical (the same on both sides of a line) shapes. Be patient; this is the hardest part!

7. Decide where to put the cut-out of a boy or girl. Brush a little bit of the

2. Put your paper near the white paint mixture. Dip one side of the sponge into the paint. Dab it first onto the newspaper or a paper towel to take off some of the paint.

3. When the sponge print looks like lace, dab it all over the chalk colors. Don't slide or smear the sponge. Dip, dab off the extra paint and then dab some more white paint onto the chalked paper. Keep this up until every bit is covered with lacy texture. The colors of the chalk should shine through as they do in the book illustrations.

4. Put your paper aside to dry. If it curls, ask an adult to iron it flat again before you finish your picture. Be sure to wash your brush out very well or it will dry hard and be unusable

Day Two:

5. Look again at the snowy day pictures. Plan what you will show in *your* picture.

6. Cut some children-shapes from tissue paper. Also cut some trees and houses. If you fold the tissue in the middle and pinch

plain acrylic on the snowy paper where you want the tissue figure to go. Put the shape on it. Carefully brush it down with more acrylic until it is smooth and shiny.

8. Add some trees in the same way, and a house or two. Wash and dry your hands well. Then cut some more shapes if you need to. Can you find room for a pet? A sled?

9. One at a time, fasten each shape down with the acrylic medium. Some shapes can overlap if you wish.

CLEAN UP: In this lesson, it is **very** important to wash the brush well or it may be ruined. It will clean up well while the paint is still wet, but it will **not** if the brush is left to dry without being cleaned.

Throw away left-over paper scraps. Rinse out the paint container or throw it away wrapped in the newspapers.

TALK ABOUT IT: Does your picture show people having fun in the snow? What part of it do you like the best? What part of making it was the most fun? What was the hardest part?

MORE IDEAS: With a fine-line marker or ball-point pen, draw some details on the cut-out tissue shapes. Mount your picture on a bigger piece of construction paper or cardboard.

CONNECTIONS: Look at and read other books that have snow scene illustrations.

Learn a poem about snow or make one up.