

Spectacular Snow Globes

by Debi West

Next in our “eARTh ... it’s got ART!” yearlong curriculum we visit the interesting continent of Antarctica! This curriculum is best taught during the winter months, as the students can find some personal meaning in terms of the weather.

Another interesting fact taught during this unit is that art is made by people, yet there are very few people who actually live on this continent. In fact, the only people who generally work there are scientists and artists. Several different countries own the continent and these workers reside in workstations. So, to add to the excitement and intrigue of this continent, we turned the art room into Workstation A.R.T.!

Here, I elaborate on the Kindergarten Snow Globes, as students so enjoyed making these 2-D artworks and then displaying them in 3-D, to represent a “real” snow globe! Students did some research about the indigenous animals found in the Antarctic region and then watched a fun PowerPoint lesson about the history of snow globes. They also had various snow globes placed on their tables so they could actually see, feel and experience a real snow globe. They couldn’t wait to make their own, using the animal of their choice or drawing a snowman to feature inside their globes. We talked about the cool color schemes and how using these could help the viewer feel a certain mood, in this case the feel of cold.

I handed out the paper and told the kids to again look closely at the globes

on their tables. They realized there had to be a solid foundation, as well as a large dome shape on top. Once these were drawn with their permanent marker, they could begin to add detail, their animals, their snowman, their snow and their backgrounds. These images became so wonderful and individual, and all of them were extremely successful.

The next class period, the students were asked to “paint” in their shapes with chisel-tipped markers, paying attention to the smaller areas. Next, they were taught to use a pencil to add value and shadows on the implied snow. Reminding the children to cut *around the line*, as opposed to on the line, these were then cut out. This small cutting technique makes a huge difference in creating great art, as opposed to good art.

The final touches included placing dots of white paint onto the background, using the opposite end of the paintbrush or cotton swabs, and then sprinkling a bit of iridescent glitter



Kindergartners featured indigenous animals or snowmen inside their globes, and used color to convey the cold climate of Antarctica.

... just like the faces of my young artists. And, when these were dry, students were shown how to glue these onto blue construction paper on the sides, bending the paper a bit to make the globe actually pop off of the paper! ■

Currently an art teacher at North Gwinnet High School, Debi West wrote her “eARTh: it’s got ART” curriculum while at Level Creek Elementary (both in Suwanee, Ga.). She’s also a past-president of the GAEA and owns the Crystal Collage Children’s Art Studio.



ANTARCTICA

grade level kindergarten

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Kindergarten students will ...

- learn about the animals found in the continent of Antarctica.
- learn about snow globes.
- learn the differences between 2-D and 3-D artworks.
- learn coloring and cutting techniques.
- learn the vocabulary words: indigenous, cool colors, value, shading, line, shape, color, foundation, 2-D art and 3-D art.

MATERIALS

- 8.5" x 11" white Bristol board
- Pencils
- Permanent markers
- Chisel-tipped markers
- White paint
- Paintbrushes or cotton swabs
- Iridescent glitter
- Snow globes
- 9" x 12" blue construction paper
- Antarctic animal images

RHYTHM-ONG

Snow Globes, Snow Globes,
Round and Fun with Glowing Snow!
Make it stand and make it stick,
Draw Antarctic animals really quick!

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ANTARCTICA

The following lesson plans are available at
www.artsandactivities.com

Kindergarten: Snow Globes

Grade 1: Photograms—Sun Prints

Grade 2: Printed & Painted Reflections

Grade 3: Clay Fish and Digital Camera Installations

Grade 4: Animal “Theme and Variation” Mural

Grade 5: Photography Mural



Go to artsandactivities.com and click on this button for the link to additional Antarctic lesson plans.