

## Our Favorite Things - Gingerbread Word Ladder

**Gingerbread** baked into miniature houses,  
**Snowflakes** that fall on our sweaters and blouses,  
Peppermint **candycanes** that make us all sing,  
These are a few of our favorite things!

**Read** and follow the directions beside each white box to add, subtract, or change letters. Each clue will also give you a hint about the meaning of the new word. **Write** the new word in the box. Start at the top with the word **ginger** and work your way down the list to get to the word **bread**.

ginger

**Start here.**

*A super flavorful holiday spice.*



**Change the first letter to f.**

*There are five of these on each hand.*

**Change the first letter to r.**

*A person who rings a bell is called this.*

**Take away the er at the end.**

*A piece of pretty metal that you put on a finger.*



**Change the first letter to w.**

*Birds have two of these to help them fly.*

**Change the last letter to d.**

*This blows through your hair on a stormy day.*

**Change the first letter to b.**

*To fasten or secure pages together in a book.*

**Change the letter i to e in the middle.**

*What you do to move your elbow or knee.*

**Change the letter n to a in the middle.**

*A small object with a hole in it that you can put on a necklace or bracelet.*

bread

**Add the letter r after the letter b.**

*Add some peanut butter and jelly to this and you have a great sandwich.*

## Our Favorite Things - Candycane Word Ladder

**Gingerbread** baked into miniature houses,  
**Snowflakes** that fall on our sweaters and blouses,  
Peppermint **candycanes** that make us all sing,  
These are a few of our favorite things!

**Read** and follow the directions beside each white box to add, subtract, or change letters. Each clue will also give you a hint about the meaning of the new word. **Write** the new word in the box. Start at the top with the word **candy** and work your way down the list to get to the word **cane**.

candy

**Start here.**

*Oh, how sweet it is!*



**Change the first letter to s.**

*This is what your feet look like after walking on the beach.*



**Take away a letter at the end.**

*What you use to build a sandcastle.*

**Change the first letter to h.**

*What you find at the end of your arm.*

**Change the first letter to b.**

*A group of musicians that plays music for people.*



**Take away the letter d at the end.**

*Something you are not allowed to do.*

**Change the first letter to f.**

*This moves the air to cool something down.*

**Change the first letter to p.**

*You use this to cook some bacon or fry an egg.*

**Change the first letter to c.**

*Soup and pop come in this type of container.*

**Add the letter e to the end.**

*Another word for a walking stick.*

cane

## Our Favorite Things - Snowflake Word Ladder

**Gingerbread** baked into miniature houses,  
**Snowflakes** that fall on our sweaters and blouses,  
Peppermint **candycanes** that make us all sing,  
These are a few of our favorite things!

**Read** and follow the directions beside each white box to add, subtract, or change letters. Each clue will also give you a hint about the meaning of the new word. **Write** the new word in the box. Start at the top with the word **snow** and work your way down the list to get to the word **flake**.

snow

**Start here.**

*Frozen ice crystals that fall from the sky.*

**Take away the s at the beginning.**

*At the present time or moment.*

**Reverse the order of the letters.**

*When you come first in a race, you've done this.*

**Change the letter o to i.**

*Quitters never do this.*

**Change the first letter to p.**

*What you knock down with a bowling ball.*

**Add the letter e to the end.**

*This type of tree has needles and cones.*

**Change the letter i to a.**

*A section of glass in a window.*

**Change the first letter to l.**

*The area of the road where you drive your car.*

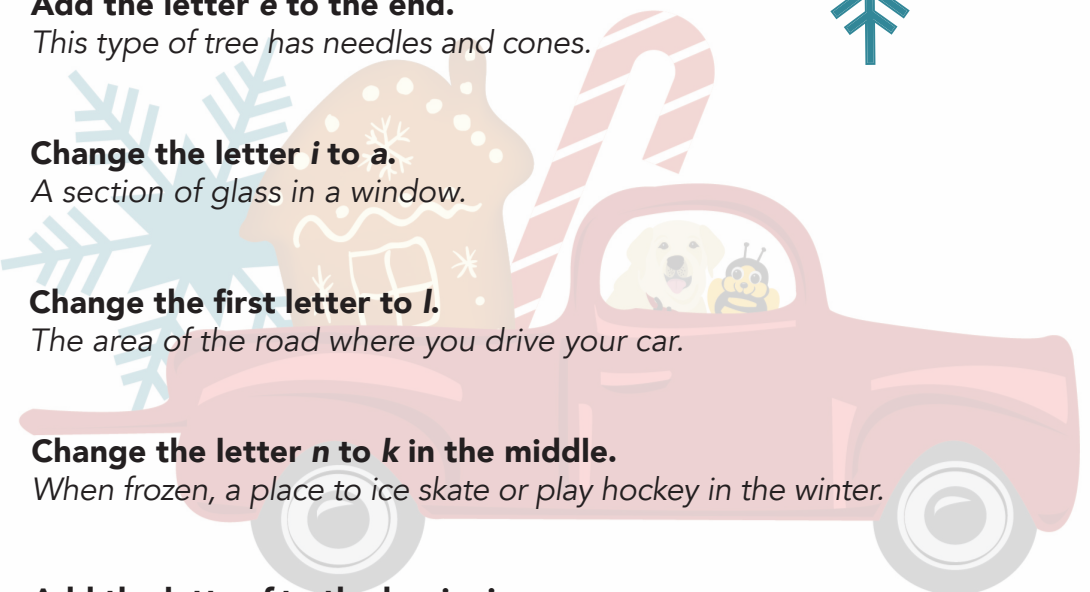
**Change the letter n to k in the middle.**

*When frozen, a place to ice skate or play hockey in the winter.*

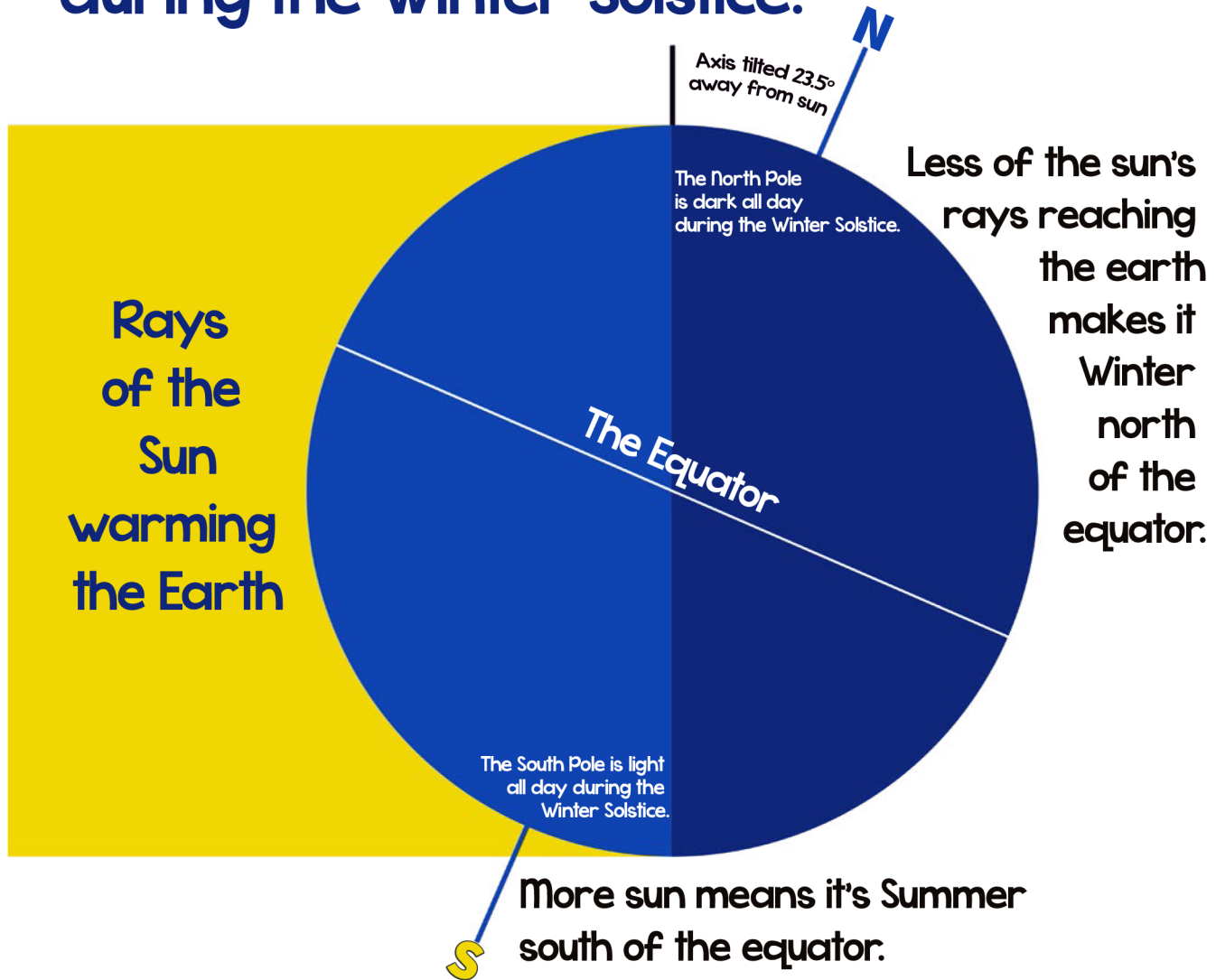
flake

**Add the letter f to the beginning.**

*A small piece of something.*



# The North Axis of the Earth is tilted away from the sun during the Winter Solstice.



The solstice happens when one of the Earth's poles has its maximum tilt away from the Sun. It happens twice a year, once in each hemisphere.

When the North Pole tilts away from the sun, daylight in the Northern Hemisphere get shorter. In 2018, the North Pole is at its furthest from the sun on December 21. We call that day the Winter Solstice. The Winter Solstice is the shortest daylight of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of winter.

In the Southern Hemisphere December 21 is the longest day of 2018 and the first day of summer because, as the North Pole tilts away from the Sun, the South Pole is tilted towards the Sun.

# Three Winter Activities for December











## Activity I:

### Winter Word Search

Have students work alone, in pairs or in small groups as they go on a Winter Word Hunt. When they find each item on the list, ask students to write the name of the item in the box. Download and print the word hunt sheet pictured below by clicking on it, or make your own.

## Classroom Winter Word Hunt

Search the classroom for each item on the list, then write the word for each item you find.

 snowflake	 bell
 cookie	 boot
 star	 tissue
 coat	 snowman
 hat	 scarf



## Activity II:

# Making Gingerbread Dough

Students can strengthen their fingers by playing with this wonderful smelling dough.

As an option, have students measure and mix the ingredients to make the dough.

### Dry Ingredients:

1 cup Flour

1/4 cup Salt

2 tsp Cream of Tartar

### Wet Ingredients:

1 1/2 to 2 TBSP Vegetable Oil

1 cup Water

### Spice Mix

1 tsp each: Ground Cinnamon,  
Ground Ginger, Ground Nutmeg,  
Ground Cloves



Mix dry ingredients together first. Then add oil and water and mix well.

Have students use cookie cutters, googly eyes, buttons, ribbon and beads to make pretend cookies and ginger people or roll the dough into long ropes to form letters, numbers and words.



### Activity III:

## Marshmallow Measurement

Have students estimate, measure and record a list of common classroom items using marshmallows. Download and print the measurement sheet pictured below by clicking on it, or make your own.

## Marshmallow Measurement

Estimate the height/length of each item in marshmallows, then measure and record the marshmallow measurement for each item.

**Estimate:**

**Measurement:**

I think my book will be ____ marshmallows tall.	My book is ____ marshmallows tall.
I think my thumb will be ____ marshmallows long.	My thumb is ____ marshmallows long.
I think my pencil will be ____ marshmallows long.	My pencil is ____ marshmallows long.
I think my ruler will be ____ marshmallows long.	My ruler is ____ marshmallows long.
I think my ruler will be ____ marshmallows long.	My ruler is ____ marshmallows long.
I think my _____ will be ____ marshmallows long.	My _____ is ____ marshmallows tall/long.
I think my _____ will be ____ marshmallows long.	My _____ is ____ marshmallows tall/long.

to:  
from:



to:  
from:



to:  
from:



to:  
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from:



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to:  
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# Danny and Bee's Holiday Place Cards

**Cut** out the place cards along the outer black lines. **Fold** each card on the dashed line. **Color** the place cards. **Write** the name of one guest on the lines on the front and back side of one card. **Arrange** the place cards on your holiday table.

<div>_____</div> <div></div> <div>_____</div>	<div>_____</div> <div></div> <div>_____</div>	<div>_____</div> <div></div> <div>_____</div>
<div>_____</div> <div></div> <div>_____</div>	<div>_____</div> <div></div> <div>_____</div>	<div>_____</div> <div></div> <div>_____</div>
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## Practicing Critical Thinking and Storytelling with Emergent Readers

1. Begin the lesson by asking students what they see happening in the photograph.
  - ❄ What are Danny and Norman doing in the snow?
  - ❄ What items are they using to make their snowman?
2. Make inferences about what might have been happening at the time the picture was taken.
  - ❄ What do you think the snow feels like on the dogs' paws and noses?
  - ❄ What do you think Danny is saying to Norman?
  - ❄ What might Norman be saying to Danny?
  - ❄ Tell a story about what is happening in this photograph using Danny and Norman's words.
3. Use voices, facial expressions and body language to tell your own story.
  - ❄ When we talk to each other, we use our voices to show our meaning. A voice can sound sad, happy, excited, tired, or bossy.
  - ❄ How do you think Danny's voice sounds?
  - ❄ How about Norman's voice?
4. Go a step further and plan a dramatization of the story ideas.

