

Winter Buddies



This activity will encourage students to look for animal signs while building their own winter buddy.

Materials:

- Container of bird seed
- Paper cups (1 per student)
- Container of carrots (2-3 per student)

Instructions:

1. Watching the [Outdoor U Winter Survival Video](#) is a great introduction to this activity.
2. Lead your students to an outdoor space. As you walk, ask students to keep their eyes open for any animal signs.
3. When you get to your space, explain that students will get to build winter buddies, or small sculptures, to help feed the animals. They first start by building their sculpture using snow (if available) and natural things such as rocks, twigs, plant materials from the surrounding area. When they are done building, they can come get a cup of seeds and some carrots to add to their buddies.
4. Divide students into groups of 3-4, and allow for up to 20 minutes for students to build their winter buddies. They can either build one as a group or one for each student.
5. Once students have finished their winter buddies, gather the class into a large group again. If time allows, walk around each winter buddy and let the students who built it describe what they built.
6. Discuss what animals they think will visit their winter buddies and how they will know what animals visited.
7. Bring students back to your spot the following day and check the winter buddies to see if any animals visited overnight. Share what animal signs were found that demonstrate that some animals tolerate the winter by staying active.
8. The Outdoor U Art Extension - Winter Buddies is a great follow up lesson after this activity.