

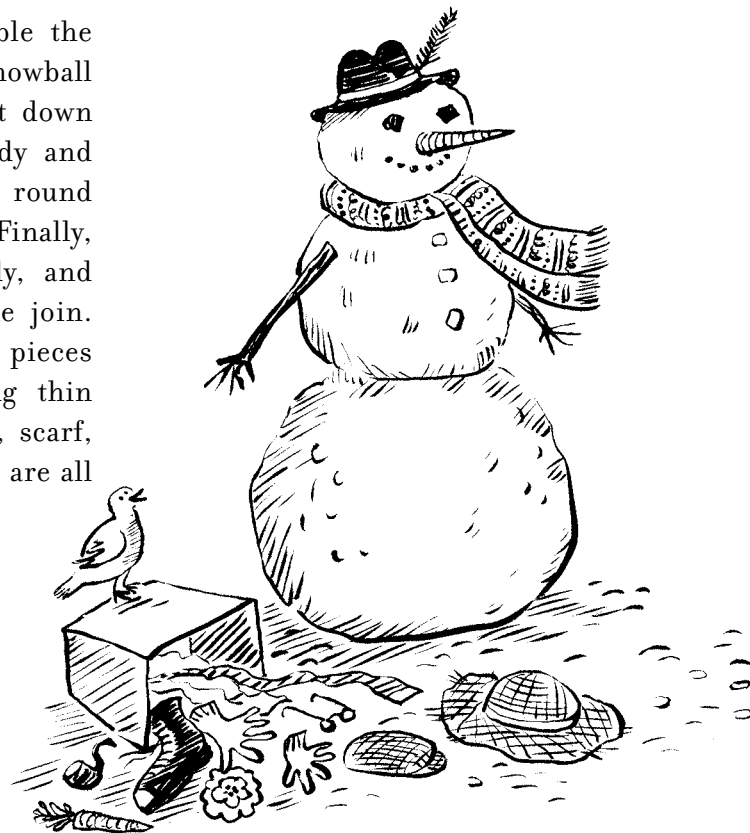
SNOWMEN

If the weather conditions and snow are right for making a good snowball and there is enough snow on the ground, then that's all you need to get going on the more ambitious project of snowman-making.

* Start by making a snowball as above, then make it bigger and bigger until it is too large to fit into your hands. Roll the snowball along the ground to gather the snow changing direction from time to time so it remains nice and round and grows in size. It takes time, but it's good exercise and will keep you warm.

A traditional snowman is made of three balls – a small one for the head, middle-sized for the middle section, and large for the bottom of the body – but if the snow supply is limited, you can make it with one large ball for the body and a smaller one for the head.

When you are ready to assemble the snowman, lift the middle-sized snowball onto the largest ball and pat it down gently to make sure it is steady and secure. Add a little more snow round the join, packing it in tightly. Finally, position the head on the body, and again use extra snow round the join. Add a carrot for the nose, two pieces of coal for the eyes and long thin twigs for arms and hands. Hat, scarf, mittens, glasses, pipe and shoes are all optional accessories.



TOBOGGANING

If there is lots of snow, and you live near a good, steep hill, you could try tobogganing. You don't need a fancy shop-bought sledge – an old tin tray or even a heavy-duty plastic bin bag will do just as well. You might want to wear a cycle helmet and some gloves to protect your extremities both from the cold and bumps.

* Stand at the top of the hill, and lay your tin tray or bin liner out flat in front of you. Position yourself in a comfortable seated position on the 'toboggan', and ask someone to get you started by giving you a shove on the back to send you gracefully and swiftly down the hill.

SNOW ANGELS

* The best snow for making snow angels is powdery and deep. Let yourself fall gently on your back onto the snow, your arms outstretched. (If the snow is very shallow, lie down in it rather than falling to avoid head and other injuries!) Move your arms down to your waist then up to your head a few times, making sweeping movements in the snow. This makes your angel wings. At the same time, move your legs apart as wide as you can, then together again in a scissor movement. This will make the shape of the angel's skirt. Ask someone to give you a hand to pull you up without disturbing the imprint your body has made in the snow.

PAPER SNOWFLAKES

* Draw circles round a mug on some paper. Cut the circles out. Fold each circle in half, then in half again, and in half again if you can. Use the scissors to snip out little shapes along the paper folds at the bottom and the tip of your wedge shape. Repeat with other paper circles to produce different snowflake patterns by making different cuts each time. Unfold and *voilà* – paper snowflakes to decorate a window or hang by white thread from the ceiling.

