

Grab your gloves and snow boots, it's time for an adventure in a frozen wonderland—right in your own backyard! Here are fun twists on classic winter pastimes, like sledding and making snowmen. Learn how to design your own backyard olympics. You don't have to wait for summer vacation to have fun.



Things to make and do include:

- * Saving a Snowflake Forever
- * Building Snow Tunnels
- * Wacky Snow Creations
- * Making Your Own Snowshoes
- * Making a Snowball Launcher
- * Sidewalk Curling
- * Skijoring
- * Brownie in a Mug
- * And more!

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Ages 6 and up

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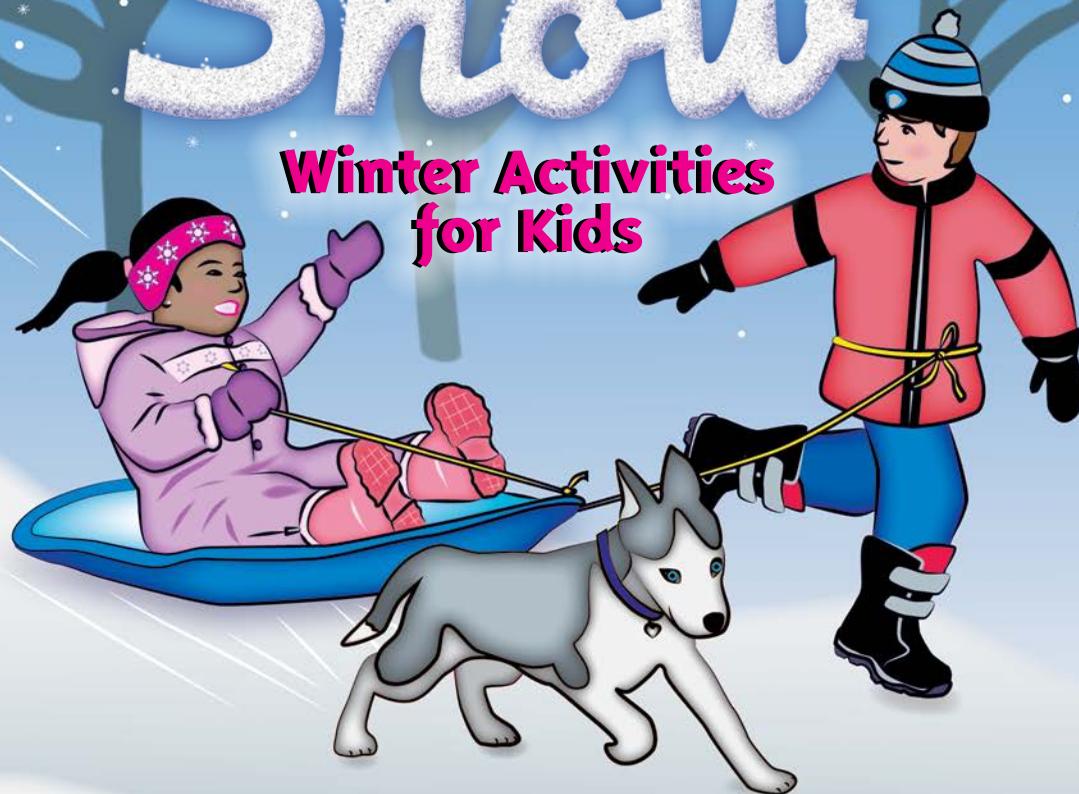
SLIDING IN THE SNOW

Dymock • Lee

GIBBS SMITH

Sliding in the Snow

Winter Activities
for Kids



Melissa Dymock

Illustrated by Fran Lee

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Ride 'em Cowboy Shovel Races

No sled? Even better. Take a flat shovel with a square mouth (yes, shovels have mouths, it's the big part). Sit on the mouth like a horse, with the handle in front. This is your horse's head. You can use the handle to change directions. Grab on tight because you're about to go for a ride.



Fun fact: This sport started when lifties, the guys who run ski lifts, used shovels to ski down the hill at the end of the day. There's actually a shovel race in New Mexico where racers use specially made shovels that can go up to 60 mph.

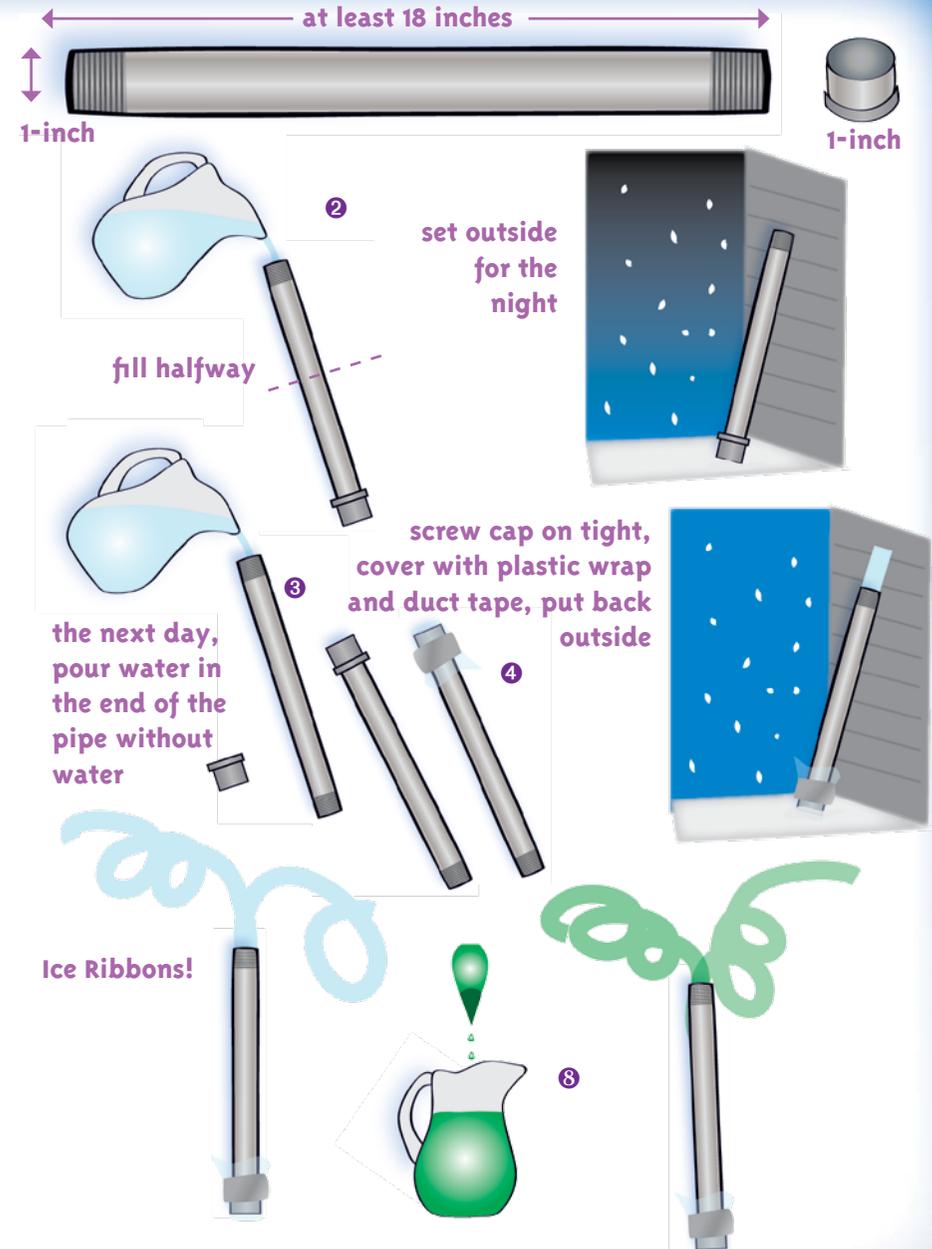
Ice Ribbons

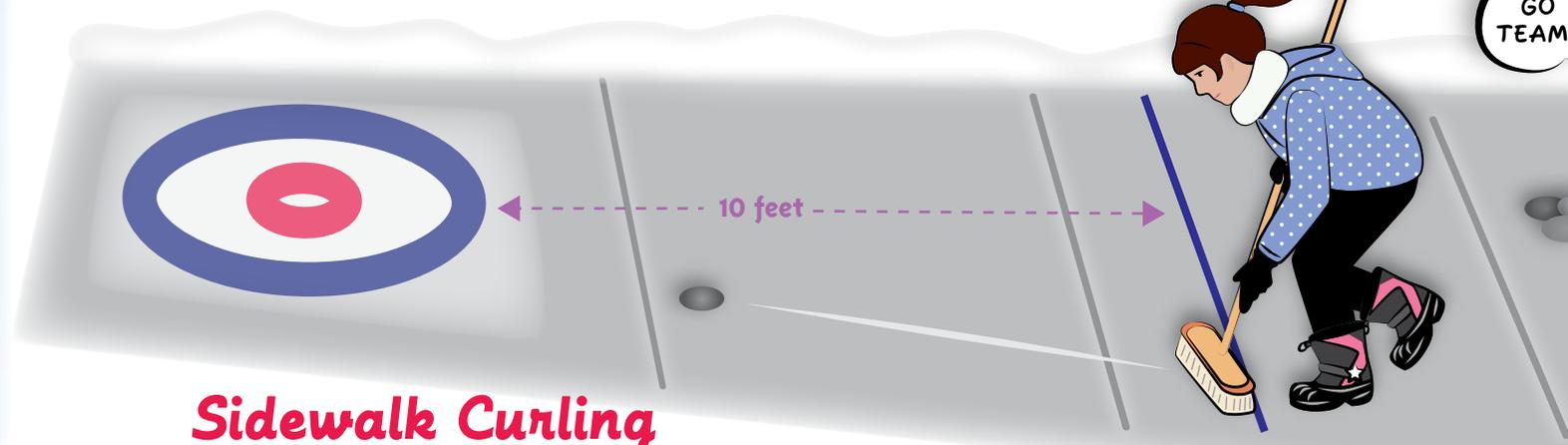
Ice ribbons are a cool formation that can pop out of pipes and fences. They're like icicles but they curl around.

You will need:

- * 1-inch metal pipe nipple (black or galvanized), at least 18 inches long (plastic will split)
- * 1-inch pipe cap
- * Duct tape
- * Plastic wrap
- * Pitcher of water

- 1 Check the weather forecast. It needs to be below freezing for several nights in a row (32 degrees F or 0 degrees C) and not above the 30s during the day.
- 2 Screw the cap on one end of the pipe. Fill the pipe about halfway with water and set it outside for the night.
- 3 Keep a pitcher or bottle of water in the fridge. The next day, take the cap off the pipe and pour the refrigerated water in the end of the pipe without water and screw the cap on tight. (If you have trouble getting the cap off, put the end under hot water for a few seconds.)
- 4 Wrap plastic wrap around the cap and tape it on with duct tape. Place it back outside with the frozen end pointing up.
- 5 Because water expands when it freezes, the ice should push out the other end. As the water melts and freezes, the ice ribbon will get longer and gravity will curve it around.
- 6 To keep your ice growing, pour more refrigerated water in the bottom every so often.
- 7 For a cooler design, have a grownup smash the end of the pipe down with a clamp before you start. (You want to smash the end you freeze first, so you'll have to seal it with plastic wrap and tape since the cap won't fit.)
- 8 Try adding a few drops of food color to the first day's water.



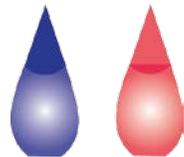


Sidewalk Curling

Since most neighborhoods try to melt any ice on sidewalks for safety, it might be hard to find a long, icy surface. Without a very slick sheet of ice, we're going to change up the rules a bit for Sidewalk Curling.

You will need:

- * Sheet of ice or bare sidewalk
- * 2 water bottles with refrigerated water
- * Red and blue food coloring
- * Several flat rocks (like water-skipping stones)
- * A couple of brooms or large brushes (like you use to wash a car)



- 1 If you have a sheet of ice, drop a few drops of red food coloring in one bottle and a few drops of blue in the other. Shake.
- 2 Using the blue water bottle, color a circle on the ice about two feet wide, making the line a few inches thick. Use the second bottle to color a red circle about a foot across, leaving a small, uncolored circle in the middle. The very middle circle is called the button.

Note: If you don't have ice, you can use a bare sidewalk. Use chalk in place of the water lines.

- 3 Mark a line about ten feet away from the target for your starting or center line. Once you have the curling sheet set up, form an even number of teams with your friends. Each person on a team will have a turn to push, or deliver, a stone down the sheet.
- 4 Rather than use the brooms or brushes to sweep the snow in front of the stones, use them to give the stone a push toward the target. You want to get as close to it as possible. After the first team sends down a stone, the other team gets a turn. Each team gets the chance to send 4 stones down.
- 5 Try to knock the other team's stones away from the center. The team with the stone closest to the button wins the round and scores 1 point. The winning team can earn an extra point for every stone that's closer than the other team's closest stone. The losing team doesn't earn any points. Set up again for another round and keep track of each team's points to determine the final winner.

Note: If one team manages to score four points in one round, which is the highest possible amount, this is called a "snowman."