

SNOW ANIMALS



Have some healthy fun with friends or family by creating snow animals. Don't worry about getting them perfect, as approximate shapes should be clear enough for folks to know what they are.

■ MATERIALS LIST

- Packing snow outside
- Berries, twigs, cones (cedar, hemlock, pines, spruce, etc.), carrots and more

■ STEP-BY-STEP DIRECTIONS



Rabbits/Hares

A very simple version is to form an oblong shape on which you fix a small snowball at one end for the tail and two eyes (with berries or piece of small twig or cone) and two ears (with leaves, if there are any, or a few twigs placed together) at the other end. A more realistic version is making the same body but add an egg-type shaped snowball for the head, small round ball for a tail and long flatter shapes for ears. A bunny sitting up will have similar shaped body parts but with forearms that are more noticeable, perhaps holding a carrot. Eyes can be small seed heads from Brown-eyed Susans or dark berries.



Birds

Birds can have a roundish or oblong body, roundish head and small dark eyes, perhaps from a berry or a tiny bit of twig. Bills can be a sunflower seed, if the bird is small enough. You can try to prop up the snow body on twigs, or make life easier and simply have them sitting on a snowman's glove, a snow table or the ground.



Porcupine

Form an oval on the ground with a nice rounded top. For the face, shape one end to be pointy and fix two dark bits for eyes (berries, twig piece etc.). For quills, stick in narrow twigs along the back and sides, pointing backwards. Keep them looking different to hedgehogs with their larger-sized body and longer quills.



Bear

You can make a bear cub with an oblong body that is sitting up with arms and legs that are smaller narrower oblong shapes with two on the ground for back legs and two higher up on the body for forelegs. Alternatively, for a simpler version, use sticks for arms and forget about the legs. The head can be roundish with a small snowball at the front for a muzzle on which you can put a small cone (like the back of a cedar or hemlock cone), a bit of twig (broken to the right size and pressed in or a twig with the right width and push a small bit in lengthwise), flower seed head or berry. Similar materials could work for the eyes. Experiment to see how large you'd like the eyes and nose to be. Add two semi-rounded ears at the top.



Deer

As deer have long narrow legs, opt to make your snow deer lying down. Form the body with a rounded rectangular shape and add a neck and head. If the neck is short and you have good packing snow (and therefore gravity won't pull it down quickly) you can angle it forward a bit. Otherwise, make it straight up and down, on top of which you can place an egg-shape or rectangular head. Smooth it out to whatever shape looks best to you and add the eyes and nose. If it's a male, have fun adding antlers with whatever twigs you have available.

■ TIPS

Where you attach snowballs and other shapes, smooth out where they join to help them stick and for a more natural look.

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