

Catching Snowflakes

Grades: 1-3

Objective

- Students will create a self-portrait from a unique, looking-up perspective—imagining themselves in a snowstorm, catching snowflakes on their tongue. This lesson emphasizes:
 - Expressive self-portraits
 - Creative perspective
 - Use of pattern and color
 - Wax resist technique



Materials

- 8 ½" x 11" white art paper
- watercolor paints
- brushes
- water
- crayons (especially white!)
- markers
- paper towels or scrap paper (for blotting)
- example of the project

Instructions:

- Sketch the Face
 - Near the top of the page, draw a large circle for the face.
 - Add a small oval “button nose” at the top of the circle—this shows they’re looking up.
 - Draw a huge open mouth under the nose using a sideways capital “D.”
 - Inside the mouth, draw a tongue and add rows of teeth (don’t forget to leave blank spaces for any missing teeth!).
- Add Details
 - Draw a winter hat (optional: add stripes or a pom-pom).
 - Sketch the scarf as a soft rectangle under the head.
 - From the scarf, add two curved lines downward to suggest shoulders/body.
 - Decorate the scarf and shirt with patterns (zig-zags, dots, etc.).
 - For hair, have students consider it’s a windy snowstorm—let that hair go wild in all directions!
- Color It In
 - Use crayons or markers for everything except the background.
 - Encourage bold colors and completely filled-in shapes—no white gaps!
- Snowflake Resist Background
 - Use a white crayon to draw snowflakes in the sky (stars, x-shapes, dots—get creative!).
 - Then, paint over the entire background with blue watercolor.
 - The white crayon will resist the paint and make the snowflakes pop!
- Go over the pencil lines with a black crayon.
 - Press down firmly.
 - Make sure to erase or cover all pencil lines.
- Snowflakes on the Tongue
 - Add one or two snowflakes inside the mouth using white crayon or marker.
That’s the fun part!
- Final Touches!
 - Add any final touches to make their self portraits unique to who they are.

Tips & Tricks



- Demonstrate the “resist” trick first—it feels like magic when the snowflakes appear!
- Remind students this is a self-portrait—their scarf, hat, hair, and smile should reflect them.
- Use a sample (like the one you shared!) to help them visualize the perspective.

Examples:

