

SNOWFLAKES

Major Message: *I AM one of a kind.*

Materials:

- Snowflake Handout
- Scissors for Facilitator and participants
- Colored paper
- School glue

Preparation:

1. Using page 2 of the Handout, cut out a 6" x 6" square of white paper for each participant, plus two to make examples. Note: It **MUST** be an exact square for the Activity to work.
2. Using the directions from the first page of the Handout, cut two different snowflakes out of white paper to show during group discussion.
3. Make two examples of the finished project.

Snowflakes Activity & Discussion

Note for Facilitator: In a cubic foot --- that's a box that is 1 foot on each side --- there could be as many as **1 billion snowflakes**. So just imagine how many there are when snowflakes cover a whole front yard or a mountain! And when we think about how each one of these tiny water crystals looks a little different from all the others that is just hard to even imagine! People are a lot like snowflakes, who have similar characteristics, but still each one is unique, one-of-a-kind. There are about 8 billion people in the world. We share a lot in common, but we are also all unique in our own way.

Guided Discussion:

(Hold up the two snowflakes that you cut out prior to group.)

- How are these snowflakes alike? *(Answers might include that they are both the same color, have holes, etc.)*
- How are they different from each other?
- What are some ways in which we might be the same physically? *(Answers could include we all have hair, two eyes, two ears, etc.)*
- What are some ways in which we are different? *(Answers could include different hair and eye colors, different heights, etc.)*
- What are examples of how we are different in our thoughts, actions, things we are interested in, things we are good at doing? *(Answers could include: When one person feels angry, they yell and scream and someone else gets very quiet and may withdraw; one person may be really good in math and someone else in social studies; some can play a musical instrument and others are good soccer players, etc.)*

Each of us is an individual! That means we are unique or one of a kind. Even though we all have hair, we have different colors, lengths, and textures of hair. Some of us have blond hair, some brown, some curly, some straight. So even though we are alike in some ways, there are also ways in which we are different.

We all look different which makes us unique, one-of-a-kind, and we also each have our own special thoughts, feelings, hopes, dreams, and wishes.

We are one-of-a-kind; special; unique! There will never be anyone else just like us! And aren't we glad? Just imagine how boring the world would be if we were all the same!

Activity:

1. Distribute a copy of a 6" x 6" square piece of white paper, or a copy they can cut out, and a pair of scissors to each participant.
2. Explain that they are going to make snowflakes. Discuss the uniqueness of each snowflake and how there are no two snowflakes alike. In that way, snowflakes are like people because there are no two people just alike, even twins. Everyone has their own mind, body, and perspective on life, based on their cultural heritage.
3. Using page 1 of the Handout – "How to Make a Snowflake" – as your guide, verbally describe and demonstrate how to make a snowflake.
4. Once the participants have each made a snowflake, distribute glue and a copy of the "Snowflake" poem to each participant. Ask them to glue their snowflake on the Handout, below the poem.
5. Once the participants have completed their artwork, read the poem aloud.

(Alternative: The participants may use a larger square of paper to make their snowflake, cut out the poem and paste both the snowflake and the poem on a piece of colored construction paper.)

Processing and Sharing:

- Encourage each participant to share their completed project with the group.
- Point out that even though everyone started with the same size of paper and followed the same instructions, each snowflake is unique.
- Ask each participant to identify another snowflake they like and why.
- Ask each participant to share one special or unique quality about themselves.

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