

POLAR PARTY

You don't want your community to miss out on this awesome VBS, so what better way to get the word out than to host your very own promo carnival called the Polar Party? This is a great event to hold two to three weeks before VBS so you can preregister children, build excitement, and spread the word throughout the community.

The Polar Party will be a good time, filled with games, crafts, activities, and snacks. Admission is free. Invite the community by setting up an event page on Facebook and by mailing or handing out "You're Invited to the Polar Party!" invitations (see Resource DVD-ROM) to church attendees, friends, sports teams, clubs, and family.

For a list and description of suggested activities to offer at your Polar Party, check the following pages. (Activities are also on the Resource DVD-ROM.)

Note: Many of these suggestions can also be incorporated into VBS week or the closing program if not used prior to VBS.

Set Up

- Decide if your event will be indoors or outdoors. If indoors, use a multi-purpose room. If outdoors, choose a grassy area or a safe area of the church parking lot.
- Each activity should have its own space, a sign with its name, prize tickets, and a marker or stamp (item 11-5-093) to use on each child's master ticket.
- Use folding tables or large cardboard boxes for activities requiring a base. Drape each table with a colorful, thematic tablecloth, fabric, or sheet. Attach boards, PVC pipe, or long cardboard tubes to each side of the table. Stretch a colorful sign made from roll paper between the two boards and add some colorful balloons.

- A simpler option is to use rope or sidewalk chalk to mark individual activity spaces.
- Choose a few of the decorating suggestions found in the decorating section. Keep it fun, colorful, and simple.
- Play VBS music.

Staffing

- Enlist at least one worker for each activity area. Church families may want to sign up to decorate, organize, and staff one activity each. This divides the workload into small, manageable pieces.
- Workers should dress in VBS T-shirts or theme-related clothing (winter scarves, ear muffs, ski goggles).
- Friendly, costumed greeters can welcome the arriving families.

Registration

- Set up the registration area near the entrance to your event. Warmly greet each arriving family.
- Check everyone in.
- Copy extra Polar Party master tickets on bright blue cardstock. (See Resource DVD-ROM.) Cut apart. Give one to each child. This ticket enables children to participate in each activity once and will be marked at each location.
- Sign up any unregistered children for VBS. (See registration forms on Resource DVD-ROM.)

ACTIVITIES AND GAMES

Note: Some of the games need a starting line, which can be made from painter's tape, masking tape, rope, or chalk.

Coollest Book

SUPPLIES

- » Box (with small prizes inside) that has a hole cut in the top that a hand can fit through



DIRECTIONS

- » Let the kids stick their hand through the hole in the box and pull out a prize without looking.
- » Tell them how cool their prize is, but then make a big deal out of having the greatest treasure ever. Have them try to guess what it is. Dramatically show them your Bible.
- » Explain that this book is not like any other book. It is written by God! It's the greatest treasure ever, and we'll explore more about it at VBS. Ask if they're registered yet for VBS, and make sure to follow up if not.
- » Kids keep their prizes and get one ticket for completing this activity.

Polar Painting

SUPPLIES

- » Face paints
- » Wet wipes
- » Face Painting Reference Chart (see Resource DVD-ROM)



DIRECTIONS

- » Paint the children's faces using images on the Face Painting Reference Chart. Talk to them about some of the amazing polar animals God created. Check answersingenesis.org/kids for more information!
- » Give one prize ticket after completing this activity.

Edible Snowman Craft

SUPPLIES

- » Large and mini marshmallows
- » Brown M&M's®
- » Edible eyes
- » Small plastic bowls with water or white icing
- » Paper plates
- » Zippered baggies



DIRECTIONS

- » Explain that one bear that's unique to the Arctic and not found anywhere else in the world (besides zoos) is the polar bear. God gave polar bears special feet that work perfectly for their life on snow and ice. They have furry feet, which help them not slip, and webbing between their toes that helps them swim.
- » Let the kids have fun making their polar bear out of the supplies. The large marshmallows can be used for the polar bear's head. The mini marshmallows can act as ears and nose. To get them to stick together, have kids use water to wet the area of marshmallow that needs to stick to something. Or, use icing. The other items can be used as eyes and the top of the nose.
- » After they are done, have them put their name on a baggie and put the polar bear inside.
- » Give one prize ticket after completing this activity.
- » Note: Marshmallows can be a choking hazard, so be careful with young children.

Slippery Slime

SUPPLIES

- » Clear glue
- » Liquid starch
- » Small bowls
- » Wet wipes and paper towels for cleanup



DIRECTIONS

- » Ahead of time, mix equal amounts of clear glue and liquid starch and put in small bowls.
- » Explain that there is a lot of slippery, slushy conditions in the Arctic, and let kids play with this slippery, slimy mixture! (Supervise little ones carefully!)
- » Give one prize ticket after completing this activity.

Icy Igloo Photo Spot

SUPPLIES

- » Photo spot backdrop (see Resource DVD-ROM, 11-5-127)
- » Dress-up props such as parkas, boots, ski goggles, scarves, mittens
- » Camera



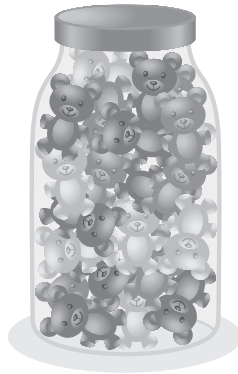
DIRECTIONS

- » Explain that many people groups live in the Arctic. One such group is the Inuit, formerly known as Eskimos. Some Inuits still live in igloos during hunting trips.
- » Children dress up and get in front of the backdrop. Photograph them and print the picture (either at the Polar Party or later) to give to them.
- » Give one prize ticket after completing this activity.

Guessing Game

SUPPLIES

- » A large plastic jar with lid
- » Gummy bears
- » Paper and pens
- » Bowl with a winter scarf wrapped around it to put the guesses in



DIRECTIONS

- » Before the event, put the gummy bears in a large plastic jar. Tape a paper inside the lid that tells exactly how many gummies are in the jar.
- » Explain that there are lots of bears in the Arctic, such as the polar bear, the brown bear, and the black bear. God created the original bear kind on Day 6 of Creation.
- » Have each child look at the jar and write a guess of how many gummy bears are in the jar. Make sure each child has his name on the paper. Put guesses in the bowl.
- » At the end of the carnival or during the opening assembly the first day of VBS, reveal the answer. The person whose guess is the closest receives the jar.
- » Give one prize ticket after completing this activity.
- » Note: Substitute other candies or foods in place of the gummy bears if you'd rather, such as Teddy Grahams, silver or blue foil-wrapped chocolate candies, or yogurt-covered raisins.

Getting Cold Feet

SUPPLIES

- » Baby pool with water in it
- » Clear glass gems or (if you're brave!) ice cubes
- » Timer (stopwatch on smartphone or other timer)



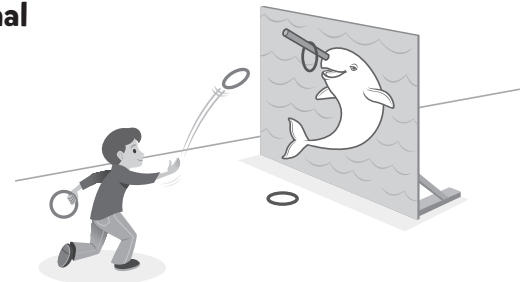
DIRECTIONS

- » Bags of clear glass gems can be found at dollar stores or craft stores. They are often used at the bottom of vases, so look in the fake flower section.
- » Put the gems in the baby pool, or if you want a more extreme option, put in lots of ice cubes.
- » Explain that if we were in the Arctic hiking, we would have to be careful not to get seriously cold feet. Feet are the first part of the body to typically get frostbite, so Arctic explorers try to stay alert and prepared to protect themselves from getting cold feet.
- » Players stand in the pool and try to pick up the "ice" with their feet. They transfer the "ice" from the pool to the ground. Allow a short amount of time to do so, such as 20 seconds.
- » Give one prize ticket for each piece of "ice" that is retrieved. Put them back in the pool for the next player.

Ring the Narwhal

SUPPLIES

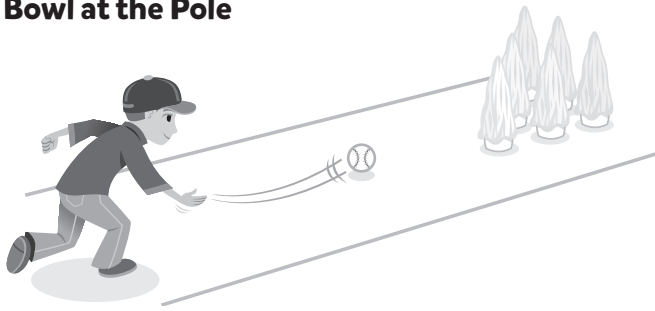
- » Narwhal backdrop (see Resource DVD-ROM) with a dowel rod or broom handle coming out of it representing the tusk
- » Pool rings



DIRECTIONS

- » Explain that God designed narwhals with a really, really long tooth—a tusk that can get as long as 9 feet! Even though scientists aren't sure yet what its tusk is for, God knows! Someday maybe scientists will figure it out, too!
- » Players have three tries to ring the narwhal tusk.
- » Give one ticket for each successful ring.

Bowl at the Pole



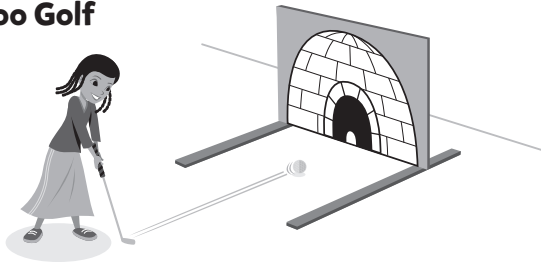
SUPPLIES

- » White ball (baseball, softball, etc.—representing a “snowball”)
- » Play bowling pins (representing “icicles”)

DIRECTIONS

- » Players “bowl” with the “snowball” and try to knock down as many “icicles” as possible.
- » Give one ticket for each “icicle” knocked down.

Igloo Golf



SUPPLIES

- » Cardboard igloo backdrop (see illustration)
- » Child’s play putter and/or real putter
- » Child’s play golf ball and/or real golf ball
- » Two long boards

DIRECTIONS

- » Ahead of time, make the cardboard igloo out of a sturdy corrugated cardboard box. Cut a hole in the middle bottom. (See illustration.)
- » Prop up the cardboard igloo at the end of the mini golf hole and set up the two boards to be the sides of the hole.
- » Players putt and try to get their ball through the igloo opening.
- » If they get it through the hole, they get three tickets. Otherwise, they get one ticket.

Warm Woolen Mittens

SUPPLIES

- » Pairs of various sizes of mittens
- » Bowl with marshmallows (“snowballs”)
- » Empty bowl
- » Timer (stopwatch on smartphone or other timer)



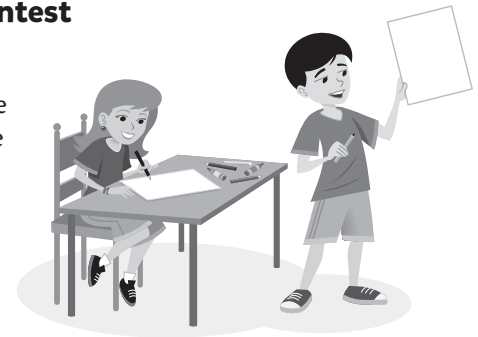
DIRECTIONS

- » Players get 30 seconds to run up, put on a pair of mittens, and see how many “snowballs” they can move from one bowl to the other. They are only allowed to move one at a time.
- » Give one prize ticket for each “snowball” that ends up in the other bowl.

Coloring Contest

SUPPLIES

- » Coloring page (see Resource DVD-ROM)
- » Crayons or markers



DIRECTIONS

- » Have each child color the scene and turn in their sheet. Make sure names are on each one.
- » At the end of the Polar Party or sometime during VBS, announce the winners of the Coloring Contest. You may want to have several age categories and several winners per category.
- » Give one prize ticket after completing this activity.

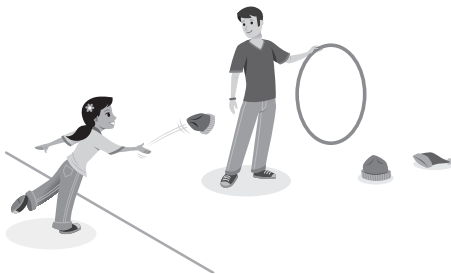
Arctic Circle

SUPPLIES

- » 1 hula hoop
- » 3 winter hats

DIRECTIONS

- » Either hang the hoop from a tree or have a leader hold it a little distance away from the player.
- » Explain that the Arctic Circle is an imaginary circle near the top of the world. The countries that have land above the Arctic Circle are very cold. People have to bundle up!!
- » Players have three tries to get the hats through the Arctic Circle.
- » Give one prize ticket for each hat that makes it through the Arctic Circle.



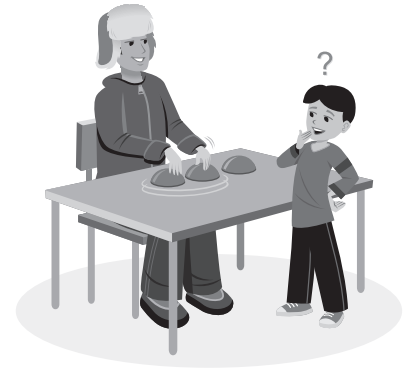
Snow Bowl Shuffle

SUPPLIES

- » 3 white bowls
- » Individually wrapped themed candies, like York Peppermint Patties or silver or light blue foil wrapped candies, such as Hershey's Kisses®

DIRECTIONS

- » Set the three bowls on a table upside-down, with a candy under one of them.
- » Players come to the table. The leader shuffles the bowls around a few times. Players choose one of the bowls.
- » Lift it up and see if the candy is under it. If so, they get the candy.
- » Receive one ticket for completing this game.



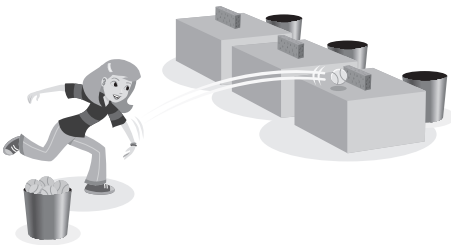
Yukon Gold

SUPPLIES

- » 3 yellow sponges
- » 3 tennis balls or other small balls
- » 1–3 copy paper boxes spray painted waterproof white
- » Optional: 3 galvanized metal buckets

DIRECTIONS

- » Set 3 sponges on their sides on the painted copy paper box or boxes—either one per box, or all three on one box, depending on how many boxes you have.
- » Explain that the yellow sponges represent gold nuggets. In the Arctic, there are many valuable treasures that are mined, such as gold, diamonds, iron, copper, and oil. Many mining companies battle super tough conditions to find these gems deep in the earth. But greater than all the riches that could ever be found in the Arctic are the gems found in God's Word, the Bible. The Bible is truly a priceless treasure.
- » Players take the balls and throw them, one at a time, trying to knock down the "gold nuggets" on the boxes.
- » Give one ticket for each successful hit. If using the buckets, give an additional ticket for each "gold nugget" that lands in a bucket. If no "nuggets" are hit, give one ticket for trying.



Feed the Grizzly

SUPPLIES

- » Corrugated cardboard grizzly bear backdrop (see Resource DVD-ROM)
- » Sponges cut into fish shapes

DIRECTIONS

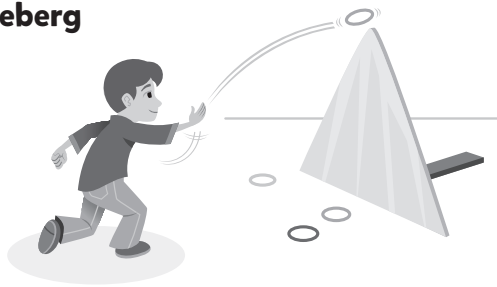
- » Ahead of time, make the grizzly bear backdrop out of corrugated cardboard, cut a hole for the mouth, and prop it up. Cut out the fish.
- » Explain that God designed the bear kind on Day 6 of Creation. Grizzly bears are a subspecies of brown bears and are called grizzlies because as they get older, the tips of their fur turn silvery-gray. Grizzlies live in the Arctic. They get ready for the coldest months by eating tons of food in the warmer months, such as salmon, other fish, sheep, nuts, bugs, roots, and berries. When the colder months begin to come, they dig dens and hibernate, not even eating or going to the bathroom for months! God designed their bodies so they're able to conserve energy and live off that stored food in their bodies that they ate in the warmer months. Now it's time to feed the hungry bear!
- » Players try to feed the bear by throwing one fish at a time into the bear's mouth.
- » Give a ticket for each successful throw.



Tip of the Iceberg

SUPPLIES

- » Cardboard iceberg (see illustration)
- » Glow necklaces



DIRECTIONS

- » Prepare the cardboard iceberg from a piece of corrugated cardboard spray painted white and propped up. “Crack” the glow necklaces so they glow, and make them into rings. (Note: You may want to add a dowel rod sticking up a little bit at the tip of the iceberg to make it easier for the glow necklace to ring the tip.)
- » Explain that there are many icebergs in the Arctic Ocean. Icebergs are pieces of ice that float in oceans or lakes, and they come in all sizes and shapes—and even in several colors, including white, blue, and bluish-green. Some even look striped! Icebergs can be really dangerous for ships because only the tip of the icebergs show above water, but much of them is underwater where ships can run into them. We’re going to try to light up the tip of our iceberg with the glow necklaces.
- » Players have three chances to try to ring the tip of the iceberg.
- » Give one ticket for each successful ring.

Straw-cicles

SUPPLIES

- » Plastic straws (white-based, representing “icles”)
- » Copy paper
- » Bowl



DIRECTIONS

- » Ahead of time, cut the straws into thirds and the copy paper into small strips. Write a number 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 on each strip of paper. Roll each up and put inside a straw piece. Put all of the straw-cicles in a bowl.
- » Players choose a straw-cicle and pull the strip of paper out. (They may need to use a pencil or something to poke it out.)
- » Give the players the number of tickets that corresponds with the number on their slip of paper.

Cool Treasures

- » Set up a Cool Treasures area with various prizes worth various numbers of tickets. Children turn in their tickets to receive prizes. Check the *Resource Catalog*, *Oriental Trading Company*, or *Rhode Island Novelty* for inexpensive prize possibilities. The following are possibilities: Books of the Bible bookmarks (11-5-077), carabiners (11-5-082), child backpack (11-5-144), coloring snow hat (11-5-145), puffy stickers (11-5-143), pencils (11-5-085), pens (11-5-086), wristbands (11-5-083), water bottle cover (11-5-081), magnet puzzle (11-5-094), notepads (11-5-146), scratch art (11-5-147), snow goggles (11-5-148), Blizzard (11-5-149), fake snow, stickers, snowflake items, plastic spoons that change color, metallic snowflake kazooes, winter mitten hand clappers, paw print stampers, chapstick, cross items, Bible trinkets, Swedish Fish®, peppermint patties, rock candy on a stick in crystal or light blue, all white Sixlets®, or blue and white wrapped Hershey’s Kisses®.
- » Another option is to give prizes at each location. If this option is chosen, children will need bags of some kind to keep their prizes in as they move from activity to activity.



Cool Treats

Set up a Cool Treats area and choose one or more fun snacks from the suggestions listed below. Make signs that announce the name of each snack.

SNOW CONES

- » Rent or buy a small snow cone machine (found online or at party stores) and snow cone syrup and serve the always popular snow cones!

POLAR DIP AND CHIPS

- » Serve potato chips or blue corn chips with white Ranch dip.

BLUE AND WHITE DIPPED FOODS

- » Dip vanilla sandwich cookies, marshmallows, pretzel rods, or other food items in white melted chocolate, or put a little blue food coloring in the white melted chocolate to tint it light blue. Shake on white and/or blue sugars or sprinkles.

KLONDIKES, WENDY'S VANILLA FROSTIES (JUNIOR SIZE), OR OTHER COLD TREATS

- » Ice cream treats are always a big hit, so serve any cold treat to go with this icy cold theme!

NORTHERN LIGHTS SWIRLED COTTON CANDY

- » Rent a cotton candy machine, or buy a small one at a party store or online. Make cotton candy in pinks, light blues, greens, and/or purples, reminiscent of the colors of the Northern Lights. Serve on the traditional cotton candy paper cones, or put a glowing glow stick in the paper cone and watch it light up the cotton candy!

SNOW-CAPPED MOUNTAINS

- » Serve vanilla cupcakes in white, light blue, or bright blue cupcake papers. Ice the cupcakes white, and put white sugars or sprinkles on top. (Or, for added fun, serve them in bright blue and white snow-themed cupcake liners, available online.)

"COOL" AID

- » Make any powdered drink mix and label it "Cool" Aid.



POLAR POP

- » Make labels that say "Polar Pop" to stick on or glue around pop cans or 2-liter bottles.

MELTED SNOW

- » Make labels that say "Melted Snow" to stick on or glue around water bottles.

Additional Ideas

- » Have costumed characters meeting and interacting with the kids. These can be people dressed in Arctic attire, in Arctic-themed animal costumes, or in the drama characters' costumes.
- » Rent an inflatable.
- » Make Arctic-themed balloon animals.
- » Do a Creature Feature. See the *Assembly Guide* to get an idea of how this works.