

Polk County Library's

# WINTER READING CHALLENGE 2026 HOMESCHOOL EDITION

Jan. 5 – Jan. 30, 2026

Winners Announced: Feb. 10, 2026

## READ & COMPETE

- Read and keep track of your minutes.
  - Optional: Watch our videos and complete activities for extra minutes!
- Compete against other homeschoolers in Polk County.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- All homeschoolers between the ages of 5-18 within the Polk County District.

## WHAT ARE THE PRIZES?

- Participation Prize: Once your minutes are logged, stop by the library for a participation prize!
- Grand Prize:
  - Ice Breaker Party: Board Games & Ice Cream
- The homeschooler who reads the most minutes wins the Grand Prize!

## HOW DO WE PARTICIPATE?

### 1 READ

The homeschooler who reads the most minutes wins the Grand Prize!

### 2 WATCH & DO

Earn extra minutes by watching one of our YouTube videos or completing an activity!

- Each video and activity is worth 60 extra minutes.
- Visit our website for a list of activities.

### 3 RECORD

Fill out the Google Form **ONCE** no later than Friday, February 6th. Winners will be announced the following week.

Scan QR code to log your minutes by February 6th.



Questions on how to participate?  
Contact our Outreach Coordinator at [ljenkins@polkcolibrary.org](mailto:ljenkins@polkcolibrary.org)  
or our Children's Specialist at [bellison@polkcolibrary.org](mailto:bellison@polkcolibrary.org)

 Polk County  
Library  
[polkcolibrary.org](http://polkcolibrary.org)

# Polk County Library's Winter Reading Challenge



## This packet contains:

- Video & Activity Descriptions
- Reading Log
- Reading Goal Tracker
- Winter Haiku Template
- Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt
- Word Puzzle Activities

## Video & Activity Descriptions

Each video you watch or activity you do is worth an extra 60 minutes.

### • Brain Break Videos

We've created fun Brain Break videos you can do with your class! These brain breaks require little to no supplies.

- Freeze Dance with Dave
- Dino Yoga
- Hot Cocoa Stir
- Snowstorm in a Jar
- How To Draw A Winter Penguin
- Snowflake Salt Painting
- Shake It Out
- Mirror, Mirror

All of the videos are available on the Polk County Library YouTube channel. You can also watch any of the Story Time videos to earn extra minutes.

### • Career Conversation Videos

In addition to the Brain Break videos, older students can watch any of our Career Conversation videos to earn extra minutes. Each video is an interview with a professional in different chosen careers, from pilot to realtor to small business owner. Students will learn about the education required, the ups and downs of the field and hear advice from the pros.

### • Rhyme Time

How many words can you come up with that rhyme with these? How many rhymes can you get in one minute?

- |            |          |         |          |
|------------|----------|---------|----------|
| • snow     | • sled   | • igloo | • alpine |
| • cold     | • boots  | • parka | • crisp  |
| • blizzard | • cozy   | • scarf | • flurry |
| • frost    | • mitten | • ski   | • coat   |

### • Winter Haiku

Write a winter themed Haiku poem and draw a picture to go with the poem.

### • Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt

Enjoy a wintery walk around your neighborhood and see how many items you can check off.

### • Winter Crossword Puzzles

### • Winter Word Searches

### • Snowman Word Scramble

Polk County Library's

# Winter Reading Challenge Log

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Goal: \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Minutes

Date	Minutes

**Scan the QR code to log your minutes by Friday, February 6th.**  
The winner will be announced the following week.

I DID IT!

Reading Goal: \_\_\_\_\_

Goal 6:

Goal 5:

Goal 4:

Goal 3:

Goal 2:

Goal 1:

Polk County Library's

**WINTER  
READING  
CHALLENGE  
2026**

Winter Haiku



by:



# Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt

Bundle up and go for a walk around your neighborhood or head to your local park. How many things can you mark off?



**Red Berries**



**Icicles**



**Christmas Lights**



**Snowman**



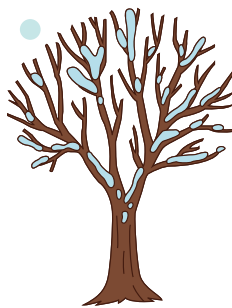
**Evergreen Tree**



**Sled**



**Bird**



**Bare Tree**



**Wreath**



**Bench or Swing**



**Birdhouse**

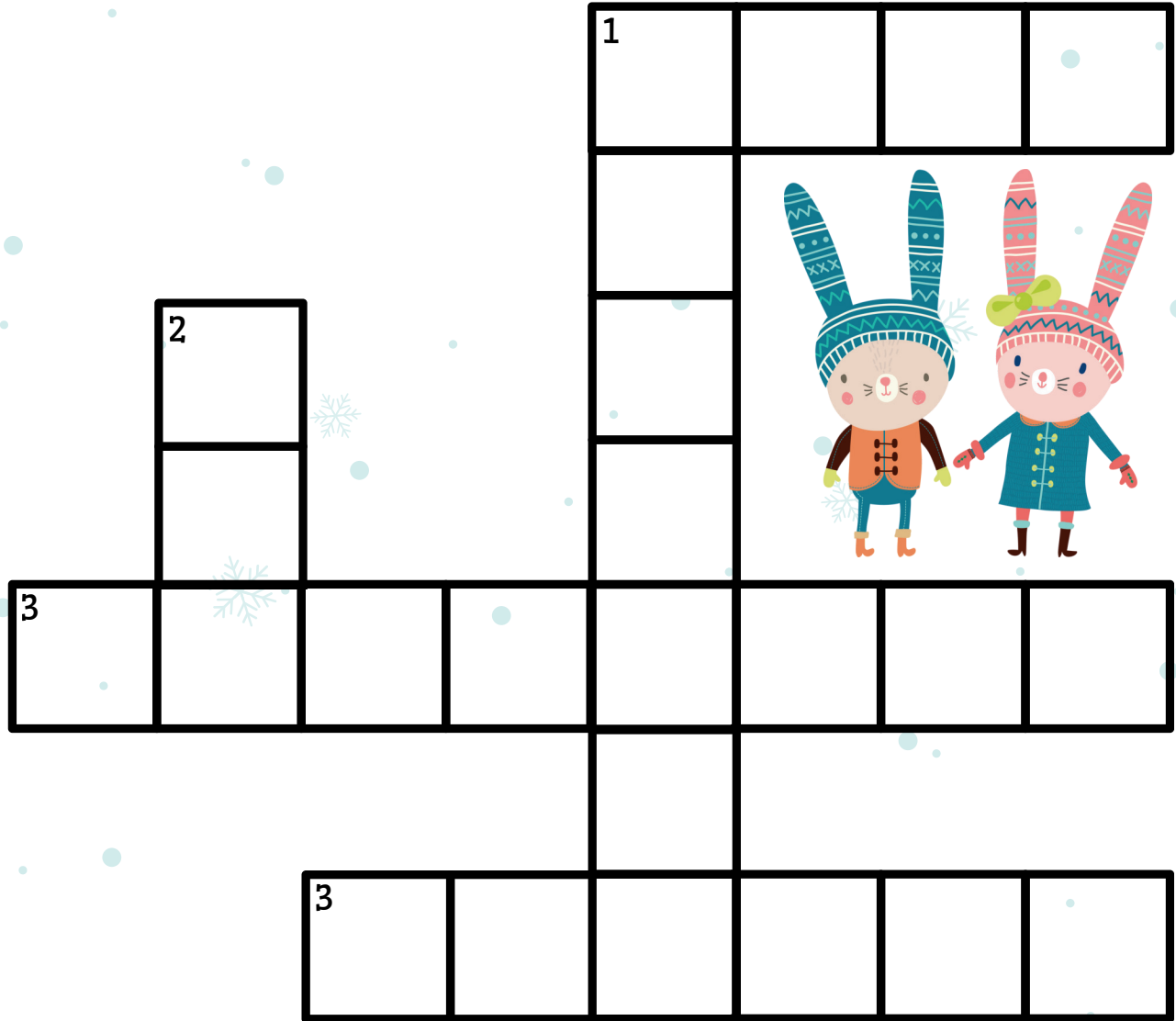


**Squirrel**

# Winter Crossword

Use the clues to fill in the boxes with these words:

**ICE      WINTER      SNOW**  
**DECEMBER      SNOWMAN**



## **ACROSS**

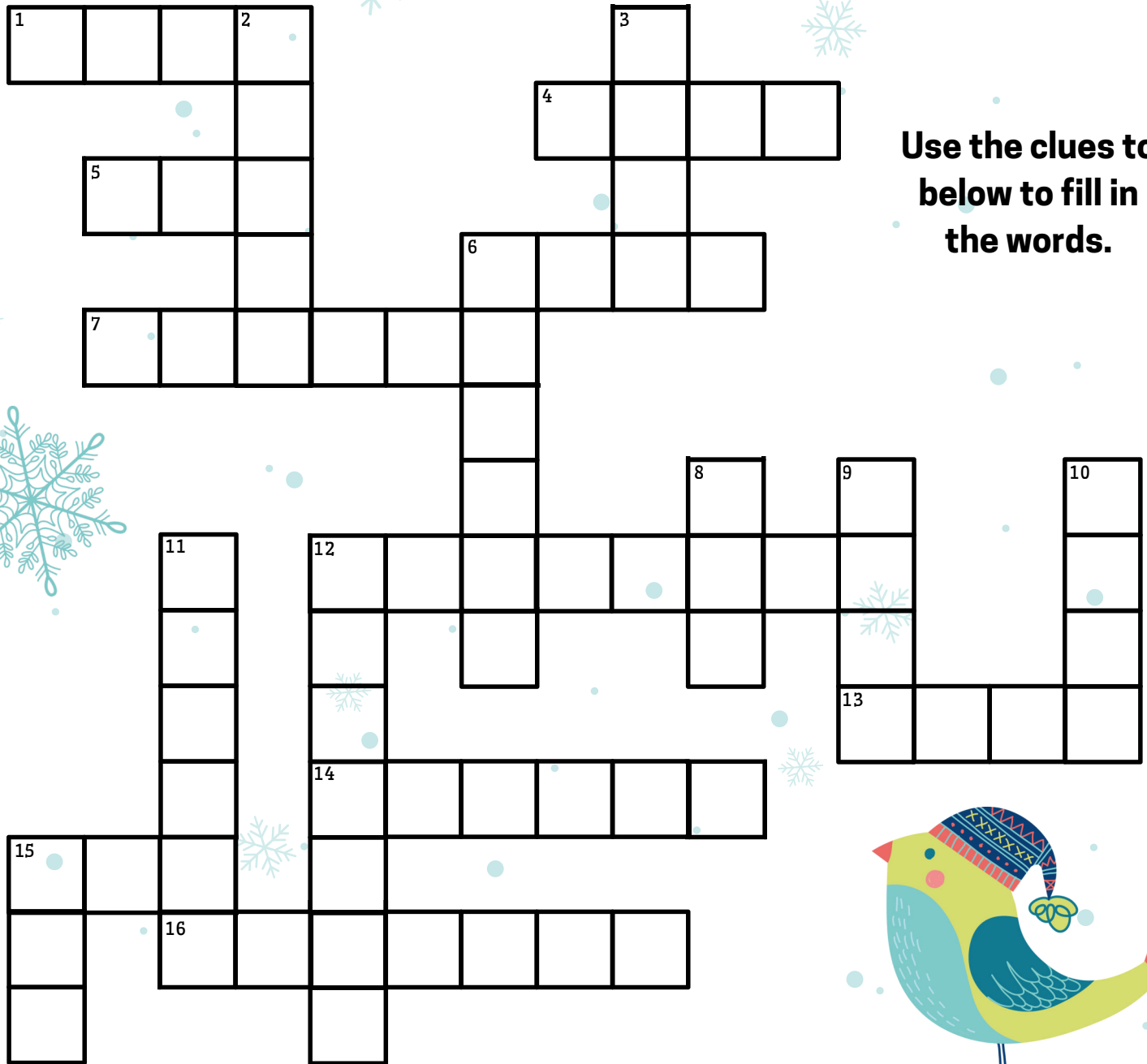
1. Falls from the sky in winter
3. First month of winter
4. The coldest season

## **DOWN**

1. Guy with a carrot nose
2. Frozen water



# Winter Crossword



Use the clues to  
below to fill in  
the words.

## ACROSS

1. soft, white pieces of frozen water that falls to the ground
4. opposite of hot
5. to move on snow with long narrow strips attached to the feet
6. footwear in the winter
7. "Dress warm so you don't \_\_\_\_\_."
12. children like to throw one of these
13. "The snow is 2 feet \_\_\_\_\_."
14. the coldest season of the year
15. frozen water
16. "We like to go \_\_\_\_\_ on the pond in the water."

## DOWN

2. the color of fresh snow
3. a piece of clothing to keep warm
6. "The temperature fell \_\_\_\_\_ zero last night."
8. a covering to keep the head warm
9. an outdoor winter toy for kids to slide down snowy hills
10. "Be careful not to \_\_\_\_\_ and fall on the ice."
11. special shoes for ice
12. a model of a person made of snow
15. In the winter, the roads can be \_\_\_\_\_.





# Winter Word Search

L D H U F S W X P V E C  
I C A G M J I T L H R N  
B R T K I E Q C O A T U  
S N O W T A Y P W Z J S  
U S F R T G S L E D M K  
P K X J S Z N H Q Y B I  
E A L D U S C A R F O W  
Y T B I Q X O K J N O H  
O E V C P R L U W S T A  
G Z M E H B D N I K X F



BOOT



COAT



COLD



HAT



ICE



MITTS



PLOW



SCARF



SKATE



SKI



SLED



SNOW

# Winter Word Search

P M U F Y D R H Q L T E K C A J E  
Y T S C A R F E V N G W S I B K R  
I C J Z D O Y G T B M H S W A P L  
G E S F I S R U N A O X C L Q I H  
L V A N L T K S J V E B F Z U K O  
O T P Y O D Z I E H A W R C S S F  
O G E C H W T L I R O J S H D N H  
P N X N S A B V H N W F I K G O Z  
L I Q U E N Y O S I G V M A N W R  
F Z A D R Z L S A G E Q I P O S C  
N E B H Y S O F I R M U T E S U J  
T E I C E B E R G E D O T K A I W  
X R G V L A N U F B I C E R E T F  
A F O Z D R I B T E P U N A S R E  
M L U S O L S T I C E H Y F O I T  
G I P H A N B S M I L Q A S V G Y  
E Z N I U G N E P L A F T U M S L

FREEZING  
FROST  
FROZEN  
GLOVES  
HOLIDAY

ICEBERG  
IGLOO  
JACKET  
MITTEN  
PENGUIN

SCARF  
SEASON  
SHIVER  
SHOVEL  
SKIING

SLUSH  
SNOWBOARD  
SNOWFLAKE  
SNOWSUIT  
SOLSTICE  
SWEATER

# Snowman Word Scramble

DOPRWE

--	--	--	--	--	--

DHAE

--	--	--	--

RTORCA

--	--	--	--	--	--

YESE

--	--	--	--

WOSN

--	--	--	--

TONSUBT

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ATH

--	--	--

HUMOT

--	--	--	--	--

HEITW

--	--	--	--	--

MSAR

--	--	--	--

YOB

--	--	--	--

SEON

--	--	--	--

FCSRA

--	--	--	--	--

KTSISC

--	--	--	--	--	--

TSTMNEI

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

FOAL

--	--	--	--

TSRYOF

--	--	--	--	--	--

LMTE

--	--	--	--

BLWSLSOAN

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



What do you call a snowman party?

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

What do you call an old snowman?

--	--	--	--	--	--