Name:_____

How to Build the Perfect Snowman

Building a snowman is a classic winter tradition that combines engineering with art. To create a snowman that stands tall and lasts until the first thaw, you need the right kind of snow and a bit of patience.

Finding the Right Snow

The most important part of building a snowman is the "packing" quality of the snow. If the snow is too dry and powdery, it won't stick together. If it is too slushy, it will be too heavy and might collapse. The perfect snow is slightly damp and "sticky." You can test this by squeezing a handful of snow into a ball. If it holds its shape, you are ready to begin!

The Three-Tier Method

Most snowmen are built using three large spheres of different sizes. This provides a stable base and a classic shape.

- The Base: Start by making a small snowball with your hands. Place it on the ground and roll it through the snow. As you roll, the ball will pick up more snow and grow larger. Aim for a diameter of about 2 to 3 feet. Stop rolling when it is heavy enough to be stable but not so big that you can't move it.
- The Middle: Create a second ball using the same rolling technique, but make it slightly smaller than the base (about 1 to 2 feet wide). Carefully lift this ball and place it directly on top of the base. To keep it from falling, you can pack extra snow around the "seam" where the two balls meet.
- The Head: The final ball is the smallest. Roll it until it is about 1 foot wide. Place it on top of the middle section.

Adding the Details

Now that your snowman has a body, it's time to bring it to life with accessories.

- The Face: Use coal, small rocks, or buttons for the eyes and mouth. A carrot is the traditional choice for a nose.
- The Arms: Find two sturdy sticks and poke them into the sides of the middle section.
- The Outfit: Add a scarf around the neck and a hat on the head. You can even add buttons down the chest to make it look like the snowman is wearing a coat.

Maintenance Tip

If the sun comes out, your snowman might start to lean. You can strengthen it by spraying it lightly with water from a spray bottle. The water will freeze into a thin layer of ice, acting like a protective "shield" to help it stand longer!

Name:_____

1. What is the main idea of the section titled "Finding the Right Snow"?

A. Snowmen should be built as fast as possible.

B. You must test the snow to make sure it is sticky and damp enough to hold together.

C. Powdered snow is the best kind for making large snowballs.

D. Squeezing snow into a ball is a fun winter game.

2. Which text structure does the author use in the "Three-Tier Method" section?

A. Cause and Effect

B. Comparison

C. Sequence (Step-by-Step)

D. Question and Answer

3. Based on the passage, why is it important to place the base, middle, and head in a specific size order?

A. Because it makes the snowman look more like a human.

B. To provide a stable foundation so the heavy sections don't collapse.

C. Because small snowballs are harder to roll than large ones.

D. The author says the order does not actually matter.

4. What can you infer would happen if you used a spray bottle on your snowman while the temperature was above freezing (40°F)?)

A. The water would turn to ice and protect the snowman.

B. The water would likely cause the snowman to melt faster.

C. The snowman would grow larger.

D. The sticks used for arms would begin to grow leaves.

5. What is the author's primary purpose for including the "Maintenance Tip" at the end?

A. To persuade the reader to build more than one snowman.

B. To inform the reader of a clever way to make their snowman last longer.

C. To explain how to decorate a snowman's hat.

D. To warn the reader that snow is dangerous.