



# YAK'S CORNER TEACHER GUIDE

This week we picked up some great ideas for homemade holiday gifts. We also learned some fast facts on winter and yakked with Cori Yokal, a Radio City Music Hall Rockette.

Members of the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes practice their falling soldiers routine for their annual Christmas performance.

HUGH GRANNUM/KRT



## Paper Caper

**ACTIVITY:** Most communities offer special performances during the holiday season. Search your newspaper for listings of holiday events in your area. Choose an event that seems interesting to you. Find out more about the event by calling the sponsoring organization or looking on the sponsor's Web site. Then write a brief story about the event. Your story should include information that tells your reader the basics about the event: who, what, when, where, why and how.

**STANDARDS:** Students will use a variety of consumer-information sources. Students will gather information on a topic and then present what they have learned in writing.

## Seasonal Ideas

**ACTIVITY:** Fold a piece of white paper into quarters. At the top of each rectangle, write the name of a different season. Under each heading, make a list of activities that one might do during that season.

**STANDARDS:** Students will study and understand various

ways for marking the passage of time. Students will study and understand the four seasons.

## Let It Snow

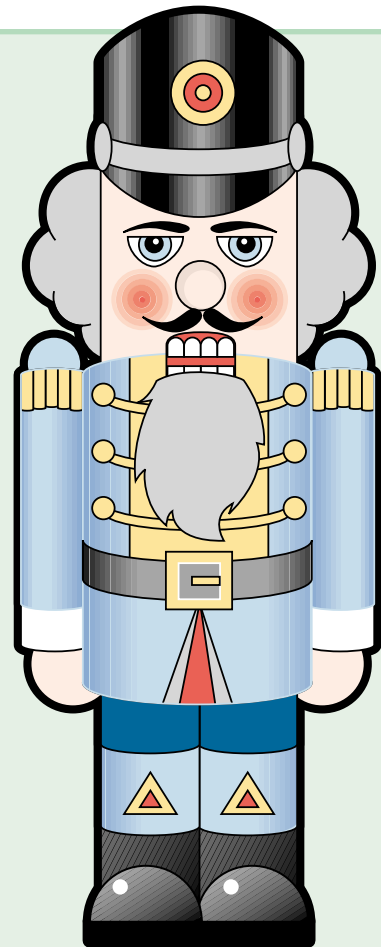
**ACTIVITY:** Create a blizzard of your own by drawing snowflakes on paper. Try using white pencils or crayons on black paper. To draw your snowflakes, use only lines, triangles, squares and circles. Be sure to make each crystal symmetrical.

**STANDARDS:** Students will understand symmetry. Students will recognize various geometric patterns and be able to name them. Students will use two-dimensional geometric shapes to create designs.

## Goofy Gift

**ACTIVITY:** Imagine if you could create a holiday gift for your parents to make some aspect of their daily lives easier. Sketch the gift you'd make for your parents. Make sure your gift includes at least two simple machines (pulley, lever and so forth).

**STANDARD:** Students will explore and understand simple machines.



## All Cracked Up

**ACTIVITY:** "The Nutcracker" is a popular holiday story — perhaps you've seen the ballet. There are many different storybook versions of the classic tale. Find several versions of the story. After reading each one, decide which one you like best. Then write a letter to a friend explaining why that is your favorite version.

**STANDARDS:** Students will write informal letters. Students will write explanatory pieces.

