Updated Instructions!

Day 2 Supplies:

- Day 2 Talk-Starter Poster from Imagination Station Poster Pack*

- Snow-on-the-Go* (1 pack per Crew)

- wet wipes
- spoons
- 2 cups of water in disposable cups (1 per Crew)

- disposable aluminum lasagna pans (1 per Crew)
- disposable plates (1 per child)
- warm water (3 tablespoons per Crew)
- ½ cup Epsom salt
- ½ cup water
- clear plastic plates (1 per Crew in a rotation)
- dish soap
- small cup
- small plastic magnifying glasses (3 per Crew in a rotation)
- food coloring (optional)
- teaspoon
- microwave-safe bowl or cup

*available from group.com or your Group VBS supplier

Before You Hit the Trail

- Hang the Day 2 Talk-Starter Poster on the wall.
- Hang the poster of Clawdia from the Bible Memory Buddy® Mini Posters.
- Follow the steps below to make Epsom salt crystals for each Crew in a rotation.
- Create a basket of supplies for each Crew in a rotation. (You can restock between rotations.) You'll need one supply basket per Crew.

COMPASS CLUE

You *can* have each Crew make its own Epsom salt crystals during Imagination Station. However, you'll likely need a hair dryer to speed up the drying process.

Making Salt Crystals

1. Boil ½ cup of water in a microwave-safe bowl or cup.
2. Add ½ cup Epsom salt, and stir until the salt is completely dissolved. (You can add food coloring, for more colorful crystals.) Set the mixture aside.
3. Add a few drops of water to a teaspoon of dish soap, just to thin it out a little.
4. Use your fingers to spread the soap mixture on a clear plastic plate.
5. Use a clean teaspoon to put a teaspoon of the salt mixture on the plate. Tip the plate a little to spread the salt mixture around the plate.
6. Set the plate aside to dry—that's when the crystals will form!
7. Make one plate of crystals for each Crew in a rotation.

Each Crew basket should contain:

- ✓ 1 package of Snow-on-the-Go
- ✓ 1 aluminum pan
- ✓ 1 spoon

COMPASS CLUE

If you want Crews to make their own crystals, lead them through the steps on page 15 at the beginning of the station. They can spread the mixture on the plate and let it dry while they "get imagination," answer the Talk-Starter questions, and create Snow-on-the-Go. Crew Leaders can use hair dryers (if necessary) to finish drying the liquid so kids can see crystals during the "Check Out Crystals" section.

FIELD TEST FINDING

We tried a DIY recipe for snow (using cornstarch, baking soda, and water), but it ended up making a huge mess of kids' hands! Snow-on-the-Go is easy, clean, and safe to use.

Got Imagination?

Have the Sing & Play Peak Music playing in your room as kids arrive.

Greet kids enthusiastically as they enter Imagination Station. Then have Crews sit on their Crew blankets.

SAY Welcome back! I'm so excited that we're all here at Imagination Station! We're exploring the wonders of the Alaskan wilderness. But before we get started, I need to know...

ASK Who remembered their imagination today?

SAY Uh-oh! Sometimes we forget. That's okay—it's only Day 2. I kind of thought that might happen, so I asked Clawdia for ideas. Point to the poster of Clawdia. And she had a great idea!

See, crabs use their claws to grab on to things. So I thought maybe if we had pincher claws like crabs, we could grab imagination out of the air!

Lead kids in making crab claws, and then ham up pinching the invisible imagination out of the air.

Did you catch any? If any kids say no, pretend to toss them some to pinch and grab. Whew! Now we've caught lots of imagination. And now that that's settled, let's hear our talk-starter question.

Answer a Talk-Starter Question

Point to the Day 2 Talk-Starter Poster.

SAY Since you just practiced using your crab claws, I have a question.

ASK Would you rather have crab claws or human hands?

SAY If you'd rather have pinchers like Clawdia, make pinchy claws in the air. But if you'd prefer to keep your human hands, wave your hands and wiggle your fingers!

I think the winner is... Announce which choice you think got more votes.

Play in the Snow

Have Kit Carriers come up to get Crew baskets, aluminum pans, and disposable cups of water.

SAY In the middle of the summer, we don't usually get to play with snow. But today we do! You'll get to make some snow as a Crew!

Have each Crew Leader set out the aluminum pan. One child in each Crew can dump the Snow-on-the-Go powder into it.

This snow isn't wet enough! Add 2 cups of water to the powder, and let the powder expand.

Have Crews mix the powder and water with their hands until their mixture begins to feel like snow. Allow time for kids to feel and play with the snow as you play upbeat music.

ASK Look closely at each flake. What shape are these?

Have your helper or helpers collect the pans of snow, and provide wet wipes so kids can wipe their hands.

ASK Explain whether or not you'd like to walk outside today and find out it snowed. Invite responses from everyone.

SAY Well, there's one major problem with our snow. Pick up a piece of it.

All our snowflakes look the same! They're more like little round blobs. And *that* isn't how God made snow. The way snowflakes are formed means they all look a little different! Let's explore that.

COMPASS CLUE

One of the amazing things kids love about Imagination Station is that they get to *do* the science, not just watch a leader do it. Be sure to let kids play and experiment rather than simply demonstrating from up front. We love seeing the kids lean in when a new set of supplies is delivered. They can't wait to get their hands on the science!

Explore Snowflake Formation

SAY You might be surprised to know that although snowflakes are ice crystals, they don't start out as ice...or even water. They start out as dust!

As that dust falls through the air, water vapor gets stuck to the dust. Then, if it's cold, that water turns into ice! But it still has a long journey before it gets to earth.

Point to the How Snow Is Made poster, and point out each step as you describe it.

And during that fall, the ice turns into a crystal—like a box with six sides.

But ice grows fastest near the edges, which means a little hole forms on each of the six sides.

Then the corners of that shape become the branches of a snowflake.

As those snowflakes keep falling and pass through different temperatures, the shapes keep changing and growing new branches. And because each snowflake is on its own unique journey, those shapes may look a little bit different.

Unfortunately, I don't have miles and miles of atmosphere for us to drop dust through. But I think we can do something kind of similar.

Check Out Crystals

SAY Since real snow forms unique crystals—not blobs like our fake snow—let's see if we can spot how crystals are different from our fake snow.

Scientists do a lot of looking and observing so they can learn. Let's be curious scientists and take a close look at some crystals I made ahead of time.

Hand each Crew a few plastic magnifying glasses and a plate with crystals on it. Crew Leaders can hold the plate up to a light or window while kids share the magnifiers to look closely at the crystals.

ASK What differences do you spot between our snow blobs and real crystals? Call it out!

After kids share their discoveries, have a helper assist you in picking up the supplies from each Crew so they're not a distraction.

SAY Here's something cool about snow and ice. It's not very common to see just one snowflake all by itself. Snow is never alone! Each shape is unique and different, but it comes with friends. Salt crystals—like ice crystals—are unique and beautiful creations!

We all feel different sometimes—and that's because we are! God didn't make us to be all the same like *this* snow. Take a pinch of the Snow-on-the-Go and sprinkle it back onto the pan. And the things you've experienced in life have shaped who you are, just like falling through the sky shapes the snowflakes. Sometimes we *do* feel alone. Maybe we feel *too* different or like no one wants to be our friend. But Jesus does! **When we feel alone, we can...** *(trust Jesus!)*

I'm so glad all you special scientists were able to join me today and discover more about snowy Alaska—and about how special and uniquely God made each of you! I'll see you tomorrow for more sciency fun!

Between rotations, dispose of the Snow-on-the-Go in the trash. Don't dump it down the drain or you could cause a clog!

COMPASS CLUE

Here's a pro teaching tip: Create a welcoming environment where *all* kids feel free to share their thoughts. Respond to kids' answers by simply repeating what a child said. Repeating shows respect and that you heard that child. This also allows everyone to hear soft-spoken kids. You'll promote thinking and find that more kids engage and eagerly share rather than waiting for one person to share the correct answer.