MEET DR. SNOWFLAKE

Paper snowflakes are neat. Most kids learn how to make them in elementary school. Your parents probably learned how, too.

But no one makes snowflakes like "Dr. Snowflake," the Matisee of paper snowflakes. (Henri Matisee was a famous French painter who also made paper cutouts.)

Dr. Snowflake's cutouts aren't just snowflakes. Each snowflake has pictures in it—of clowns, dinosaurs, hearts, shamrocks, pumpkins, animals, trees, flowers, houses, even people. Some have dozens of tiny pictures.

Dr. Snowflake's real name is Tom Clark. He used to practice medicine at the University of Michigan's student health clinic in Ann Arbor.

One day, he saw some paper snowflakes hanging on a wall near a secretary's desk. The secretary had just learned how to make snowflakes from a patient and showed Dr. Clark how to make them, too.

PRETTY SOON, Dr. Clark was making snowflakes every chance he got. He got so good that in 1987, he had an art show. Adults and children liked his snowflakes so much that he has had a snowflake show every year since.

Each year's show is different. Dr. Clark makes new snowflakes each summer. You can see this year's snowflakes right now at the main Ann Arbor Public Library and also in the center lobby of University Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Dr. Clark has made about 1,000 snowflakes. But he doesn't have a favorite. "They are all my children and I love them equally," he says.

To learn how to make a snowman snowflake, see Page 3 in today's Yak's Corner.

By Patricia Changot,
Yak's Corner staffer

Dr. Clark's work will be on display at the Ann Arbor Public Library, 343 S. Fifth Avenue, through January 30. His show at University Hospital will be on display through February 6. He has published 10 books of snowflakes. You can buy the books at the library.

MAKE A SNOWMAN SNOWFLAKE

Almost everyone can make simple snowflakes out of paper. This snowman snowflake was created for kids by Dr. Snowflake. Watch Yak's Corner next month to learn how to make a Valentine's snowflake.

MATERIALS:

Thin white paper, such as typing paper (one sheet for each snowflake); sharp scissors (sewing scissors are great if you are allowed to use them); bright-colored construction paper and glue; a pencil and a paper puncher that makes the smallest-size holes.

1. Cut the top off and throw it away.
2. Cut the snowman, following the lines that you draw. (If you don't have a puncher that makes really small holes, you can draw on faces later with a crayon.)
3. Carefully open the snowflake. Take the time to fold each crease backwards so it will stay open. You can press it in a book to get it really flat.
4. The six points will look exactly alike, but they won't be. Choose the one that you think is the best and make it the top point. Display the snowflake in a window or glue to a square piece of construction paper.

By Patricia Changot, graphic by Kathy Westman / Yak's Corner Staffers

Sources: Tom Clark

YOU'LL NEED AN ADULT'S HELP.

1. Fold a sheet of paper in half. Do this carefully, making sure all the points meet exactly.
2. Turn the paper and fold it in half again.
3. Select the corner where the folds come together at the center of the sheet of paper (point A). From here, fold the paper into three equal parts. This takes two folds, one forward and one back. (If you find this hard to do, it's because it is hard to do, even for Dr. Snowflake. One suggestion: Don't make hard creases on your first attempt; make soft creases. If you do not end up with three equal parts, try again. When you do get three equal parts, make hard, permanent creases.)

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