

Winston of Churchill Activities

1. **Ice is Nice** – Winston knew in order to save the ice that he must convince humans to change some of their behaviors, so he staged a protest. Protests can be a very peaceful and effective way to convey a message. But the signs the bears carried played a vital role in the protest.

Have students design and decorate their own signs to encourage people to save the polar bears. You can create a display with the signs or you can share the book and your “protest” with another class and talk to them about things they can do to help.

2. **Little Actions = Big Difference Experiment** – The message of “Winston of Churchill: One Bear’s Battle Against Global Warming” is a powerful one – that if everyone takes even a small action, we can make a difference. This is a tough concept for young children to understand. So this experiment is designed to help them visually see that on our own, we may not have much of an impact, but working together, the impact can be huge!

Materials: a larger clear glass jar, a black permanent marker, a small stone for each child in your class (Stones should be fairly uniform in size.)

- a. Fill the jar half-full with water and have the students mark on the side of the jar where the water line is.
- b. Have the students make predictions about what they think will happen if a student comes and puts his rock in the water. Students can draw and write about their predictions.
- c. Now, have students make predictions about what would happen if half the class put their rocks in the water. Record these.
- d. Finally, have the students make predictions about what would happen if the entire class put their rocks in the water. Record these.
- e. One by one, have students slowly place their rocks in the jar. Mark a line on the side of the jar where the water level is with one rock, $\frac{1}{2}$ the rocks, and all the rocks.
- f. Discuss what actually happens (The water level increases as the rocks are added).
- g. See if they can figure out how this relates to the story. Discuss. (One rock didn’t make that much difference, but when all the students took the small action of placing their rock in the jar, it DID make a difference.)