

## Cotton Ball Snowy Plover Chicks

### Materials:

cotton balls (2-4), mini googly eyes (2), sunflower seeds (1-2), toothpicks (2), small piece of cardboard, scissors, black and brown markers, black paint (optional), paintbrush (optional)

### Preparation:

1. Cut out a 4" x 4" piece of cardboard (younger students, ask adult for help)
2. Use black paint or a black marker to paint/color your two toothpicks (these will be the snowy plover chick's legs/feet). If you used paint, let your paint dry before proceeding onto the remaining steps. You are welcome to keep your toothpicks wooden colored if you prefer!

### Steps:

1. Use a black marker to draw a pair of bird feet on the center of the cardboard and write "Snowy Plover chick" on cardboard.
2. Use the pointed end of a toothpick to make a hole in the center of drawn feet. Then, put the blunt end of toothpicks in the holes and add a good amount of glue around each of the legs to offer support.
3. Take one of the cotton balls and roll it around between hands to make it smaller. This smaller cotton ball will be the head.
4. Next take an additional 1-2 cotton balls to serve as the body. Note: the body should be bigger than the head.
5. Use black and brown makers to make many dots on one side of each of the cotton balls creating a speckled pattern (see the images above – you will notice the speckles are on the top of the plover chick's body).
6. Add glue to the top of each toothpick and put the larger cotton ball (1-2 cotton balls making up the body) on top of toothpicks pushing down so the glue is covered by the cotton ball(s). Make sure when you are gluing the body; the black and brown speckles are facing up.
7. To add the head, add glue to the top of the cotton ball(s) making up the body (make sure it is the side of the cotton ball where your chick's legs are facing out). Make sure you add enough glue so that the head can stick nice and tight. When placing the head on the body, make sure the brown and black speckles are facing up.
8. Glue the two, mini-googly eyes to the front of the head. Finally, add glue to the wide side of the small, black sunflower seed. The sunflower seed will serve as the chick's beak. Glue the sunflower seed (with the narrow tip pointing out) to the head.
9. Let stand for at least 15 minutes to dry before handling.
10. Enjoy your Snowy Plover chick creation!

