

## PAPER MICE



*“The mouse is a sober citizen who knows that the grass grows in order that mice may store it as underground haystacks, and that snow falls in order that mice may build subways from stack to stack...”*

– Aldo Leopold

While many animals are bedding down for winter, mice, voles and shrews are busier than ever creating and traveling through tunnels in the snow. The tunnels provide these small mammals with protection from predators and weather while they rest and search for seeds, roots, bark and stems to eat. To keep fresh air flowing, inhabitants make ventilation holes to the surface of the snow that you can spot if you look carefully. When the snow starts to melt in the spring, the winding highways of these little mammals become visible, giving a glimpse into their winter activities.

### MAKE YOUR OWN MOUSE

**Materials:** construction paper (various colors), glue, scissors

**Directions:**

1. Cut a piece of construction paper to 8” by 3”. Glue the short edges of the rectangle together for the mouse’s body.
2. Cut out two brown circles (outer ears) and two smaller pink circles (inner ears). Glue a small circle onto each large circle.
3. Repeat step 3 for the eyes with black and white paper.
4. Cut out a small pink circle for the nose and a black rectangle for the whiskers. Glue the nose onto the rectangle and make some cuts on the rectangle for the whiskers.
5. Glue the ears, eyes and nose onto the mouse’s body.