



Grades 1-6

# The Polar Express

Learning Lapbook

designed to go with classic children's book

**The Polar Express**

by Chris Van Allsburg



A Journey Through Learning  
[www.ajourneythroughlearning.com](http://www.ajourneythroughlearning.com)

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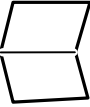
**While you are there, sign up for our email newsletter and  
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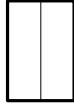
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# Things to Know

**Hamburger Fold**-Fold horizontally



**Hotdog Fold**-Fold vertically



**Folds**-Labeled with a small line to show where the fold is and the words “hamburger fold” or “hotdog fold.”

**Dotted Lines**-These are the cutting lines

**Accordion Fold**-This fold is like making a paper fan. Fold on the first line so that title is on top. Turn over and fold on next line so that title is on top again. Turn over again and fold again on the next line so that title is on top. Continue until all folds are done.

**Cover Labels**-Most of the booklets that are folded look nicer with a label on top instead of just a blank space. They will be labeled “cover label.”

## So where do the mini-booklets go?

A PLACEMENT KEY is included. This key shows you where all of the mini-booklets go in each folder. Keep this page handy! You'll also see at the top of the mini-booklet pages another graphic that shows once again where to place the booklet in each folder. We also have included photographs of the completed lapbook. So there are THREE ways to see where to place the booklets. We made it easy! You won't get lost.

## Lapbook Assembly Choices

(see photos on how to fold and glue your folders together)

**We recommend using Zip Dry Glue.**

Choice #1 -Do not glue your folders together until you have completely finished both folders. It is easier to work with one folder instead of two or three glued together.

Choice #2 -Glue the two folders together before beginning. Some children like to see the entire project as they work on it. It helps with keeping up with which folder you are supposed to be working in. The choices are completely up to you and your child!

## How Long Does it Take to Complete the Lapbook?

It really depends on your child. Most children who are writing well can finish this lapbook in 2 days. **Keep in mind that children of the same age can have very different academic and motor skills. Some children may have trouble writing in some of the smaller spaces of this lapbook. If this describes your child, we encourage you to let your child dictate the answers and you write for him. A lapbook is to be a fun project, not stressful.**

## How It All Goes Together

### What you need to get started

- \*A printed copy of the lapbook by A Journey Through Learning
- \*colored file folders
- \*Scissors
- \*Glue (We recommend Zip Dry Glue)
- \*Hole puncher
- \*Brads
- \*Stapler

### How Do I Use the Lapbook with the Story?

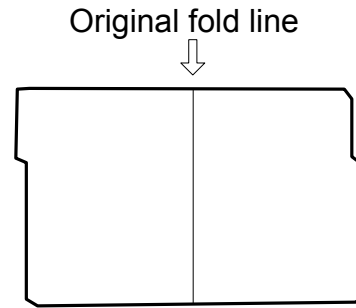
Read the story aloud to your child. After reading and discussing the story, help your child construct the lapbook. Use the information from the story to fill in the answers to the booklets.

Or, you may wish to have the lapbook put together before reading the story. Doing this will familiarize you and your child what info will be asked for in the lapbook. Then fill in the answers to the booklets after reading and discussion of the story.

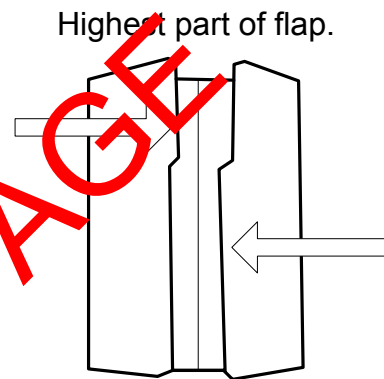
Once again- Keep in mind that children of the same age can have very different academic and motor skills. Some children may have trouble writing in some of the smaller spaces of this lapbook. If this describes your child, we encourage you to let your child dictate the answers and you write for him. A lapbook is to be a fun project, not stressful.

# Folding a Lapbook Base

Gather the number of folders required for the project. Fold them flat as seen here.



For each folder, fold the left and right sides inward toward the original line to create two flaps. Crease so that the highest part of each flap is touching the original line. It is important not to let the two flaps overlap. *You may want to take a ruler and run it down each crease to make it sharper.*



Glue your folders together by putting glue (or you may staple) on the inside of the flaps. Then press the newly glued flaps together with your hands until they get a good strong hold to each other. Follow this step to add as many folders as you need for your project. Most of our lapbooks have either 2 or 3 folders.

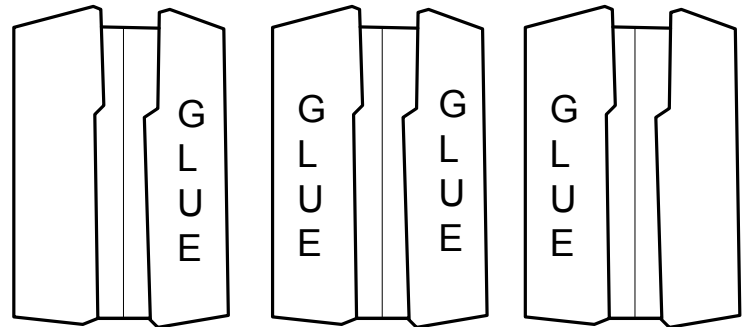
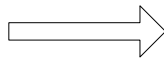
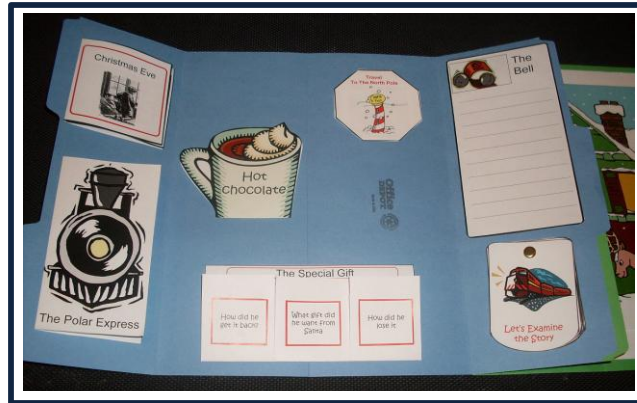


Photo of a completed lapbook base



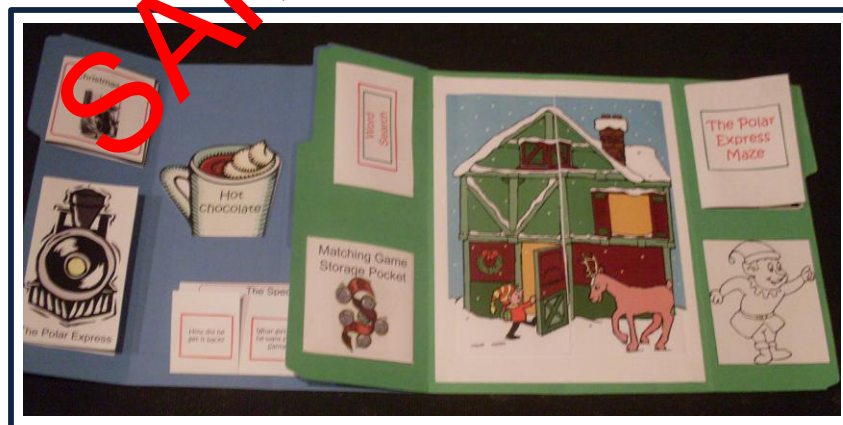
Folder 1



Folder 2

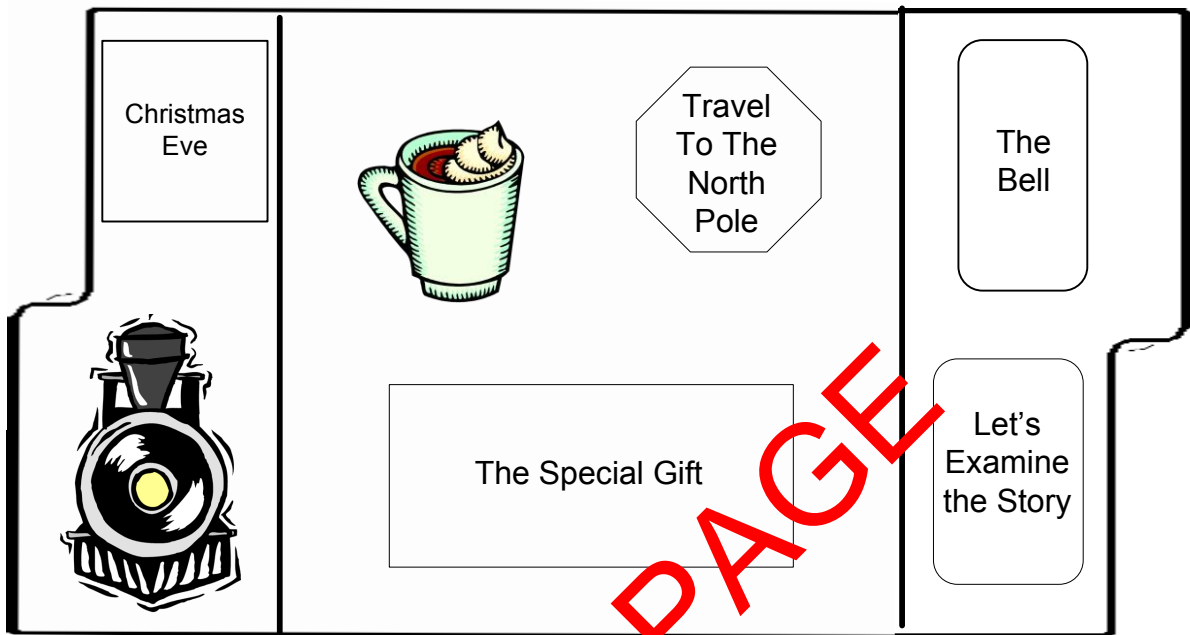


Entire  
Lapbook

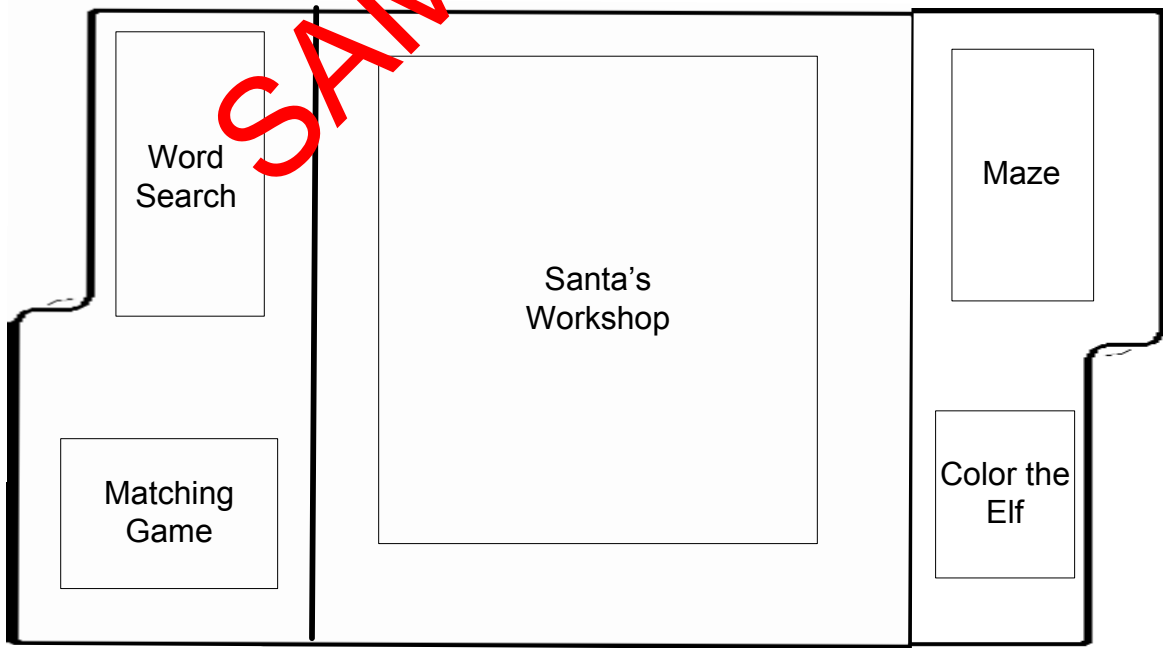


# Placement Key

## Folder 1



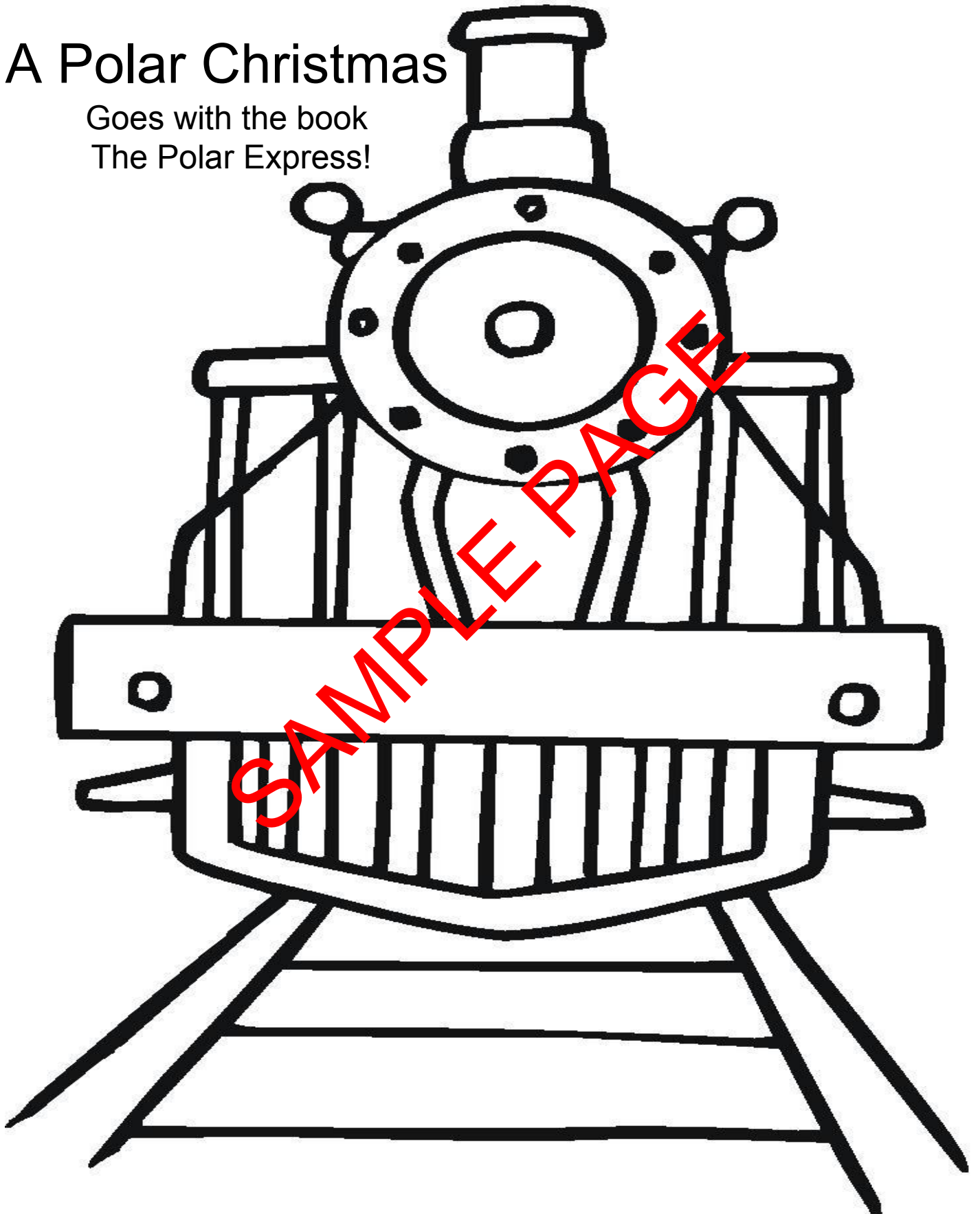
## Folder 2



Color the train. Cut out around dotted lines and glue onto front of closed lapbook.  
Pull apart cotton balls and glue around train for snow.

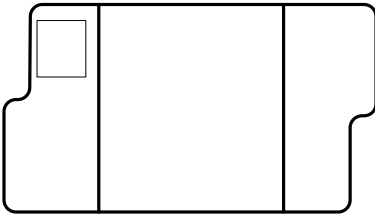
# A Polar Christmas

Goes with the book  
The Polar Express!





### Folder 1



Cut out as one booklet. Fold down top flap and then fold the other over so that the title is showing. Cut out the labels and glue into blank sides of booklet. Glue booklet into lapbook.

**Directions:** Fill in the dates of the calendar. Circle Christmas Day. Answer the questions on the labels.

### December

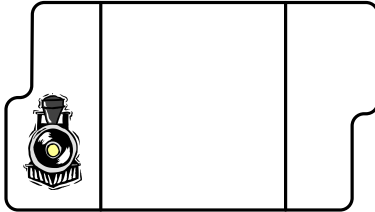

At the beginning of the story, what sound was the boy listening for?

Why did his friend tell him there was no Santa?

### Christmas Eve

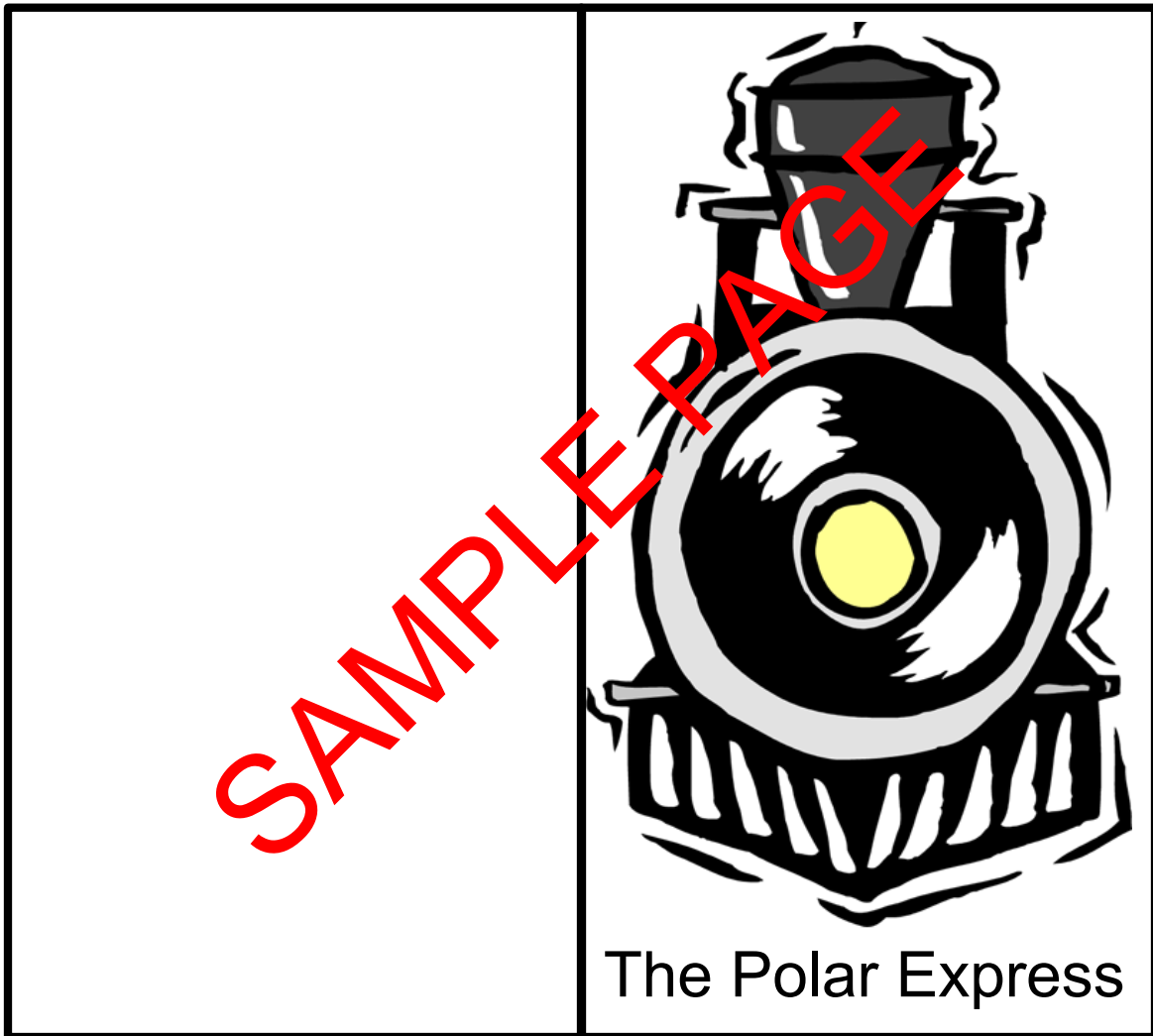


## Folder 1

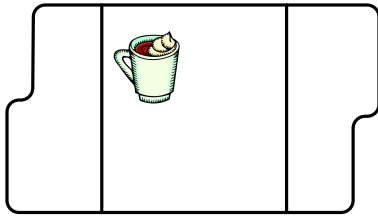


Cut out the booklet. Fold in half. Glue into lapbook.

**Directions:** Inside, describe what you think the conductor showed the little boy once they boarded the train.



## Folder 1



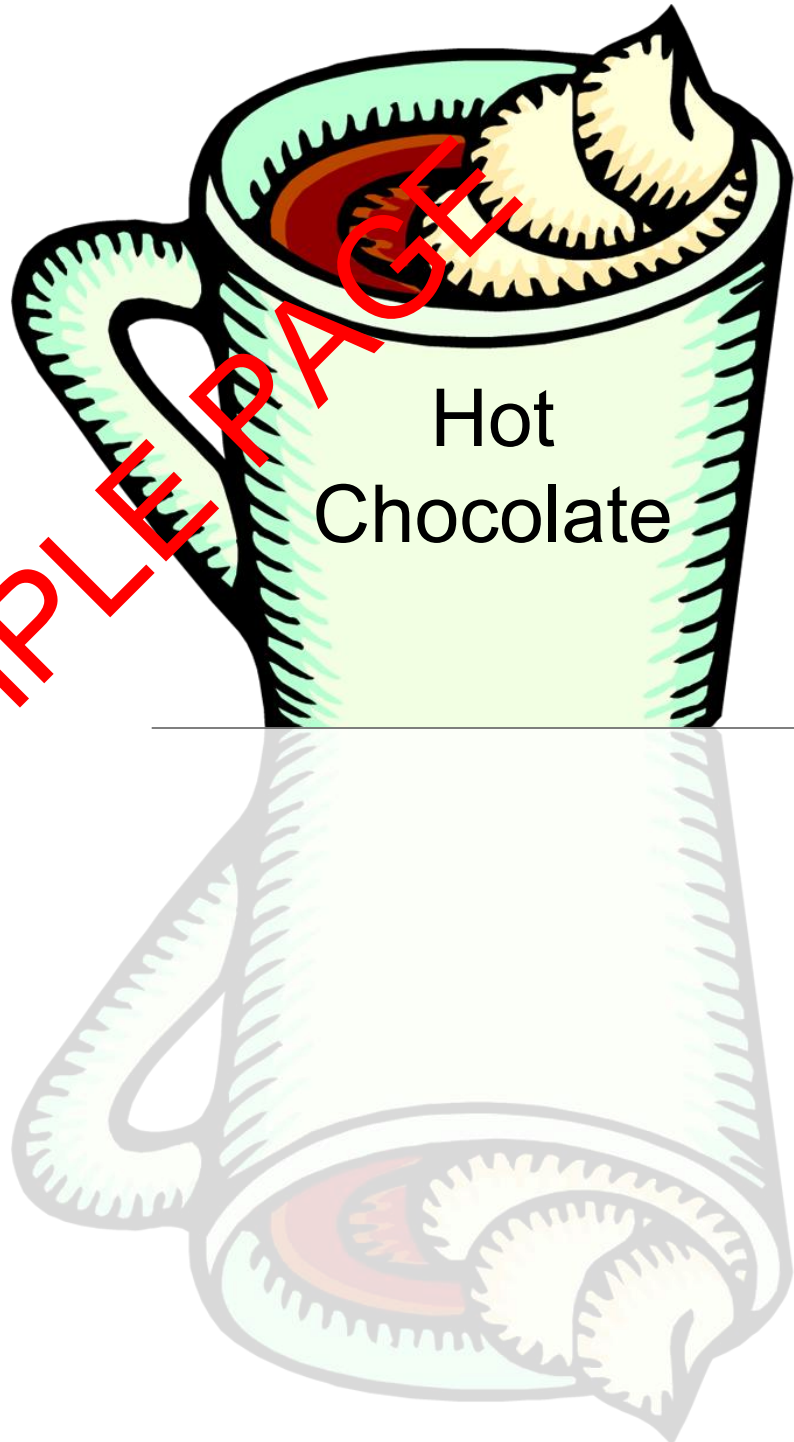
Cut around the booklet as one piece. Fold in half. Glue into lapbook. Cut out the recipe and glue to the inside of the booklet. Once on the train, the little boy drank hot chocolate and ate candy.

**Directions:** Put on your PJ's, have your dad light a fire in the fireplace and make up a batch of this Hot Chocolate to give away for a wonderful gift! Save a little to enjoy with your family!

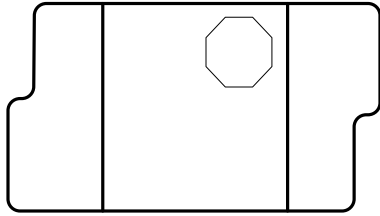
6 1/2 cups powdered milk  
1 (5 ounce) package non-instant chocolate pudding mix  
1 cup powdered chocolate drink mix  
1/2 cup powdered non-dairy creamer  
1/2 cup confectioners' sugar  
1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder

In a large bowl, combine powdered milk, chocolate pudding mix, chocolate drink mix powder, creamer, confectioners' sugar, and cocoa. Divide the mixture between two quart jars. Seal, and decorate as desired. These can be stored in a dry area for up to 3 months.

Attach a tag with the following instructions: Hot Cocoa:  
Dissolve 1/3 cup cocoa mix in 1 cup boiling water.

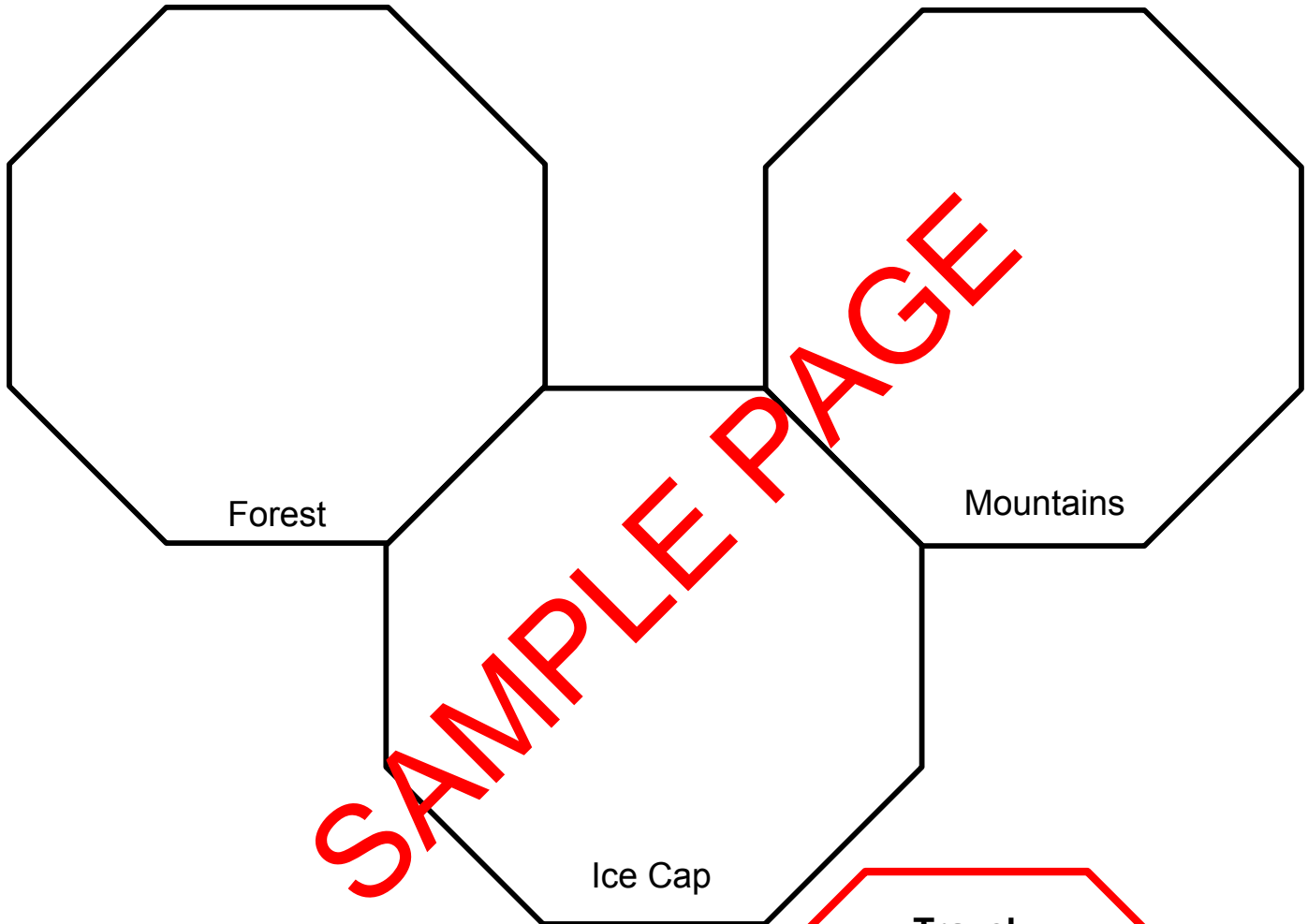


### Folder 1



Cut out the large shape as one booklet. Fold the left flap over the center flap. Next fold the right flap over the center. Glue into lapbook. Cut out the cover label and glue on to front. The train speeds off toward the North Pole. Along the way, it passes through many interesting terrains.

**Directions:** In each block, describe what the little boy must have seen as they passed through.



Cover label

