

**Did you know?** A snowflake is created as molecules of water from clouds condense on a speck of dust.



As water molecules accumulate, they form ice crystals, which become larger and then fall to the ground.

Snow usually forms when air temperatures are from -40 to 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

## Snow Science

Playing in snow is super fun, but it's really cool to be a snow scientist. Try these activities and experiments.

### Seven Sorts of Snowflakes

Find seven types of snowflake (or crystal) on this page.

When outside, catch falling snowflakes on your jacket or a dark piece of paper.

Which of the seven types of crystals are falling?



### Have a Meltdown

Fill a coffee can to the rim with snow and bring it inside. When the snow melts, mark the water level. Bring the can outside and let the water refreeze.

How does the appearance and volume of the ice compare to the snow originally in the can?

How many cans of melted snow do you think it would take to get one canful of water?

Fill a second can full of snow, and bring both cans inside. Compare whether the refrozen water (ice) or the snow melts faster.

Let the water evaporate (this could take several days).

Use a magnifying glass: Are there specks of dust left behind?



ready,  
set,  
**Go Outside!**

Hexagonal plates

#### Parent/Teacher Note

#### Skills Learned:

**Observation and comparison:** weather, light, color, and shapes

**Experimentation:** measurement, physical properties of water, forming and testing hypotheses, comparing results

**Creative expression:** vocabulary, creating new words, imagery, and imagination

**Critical thinking:** problem solving



### ONLINE BONUS!

Check out the following activities at [www.massaudubon.org/go](http://www.massaudubon.org/go)

- ▶ snow scavenger hunt
- ▶ using a snow compass
- ▶ measuring storm depths



### A Snowy World

North American Inuit peoples have dozens of different words for snow and places where snow is found. Make up your own words for snow and snowy places.

Imagine living where snow covers the ground most of the year.

What would you do for fun?

How would you get to school each day?

