



*Snow Paired Texts



1

Snowflakes

The water cycle is never-ending. The sun heats the water in our oceans, lakes, rivers, and other bodies of water. This is the start of evaporation. Water becomes a gas called vapor. It rises into the atmosphere. As the vapor rises, it begins cooling. When the vapor cools, it turns back into tiny water droplets. These droplets are called clouds. For some water droplets to form into snowflakes, they need something to stick to. There are dust particles in our atmosphere, and these pieces of dust actually become the center of the droplets. All of the tiny water droplets come together to form clouds. Sometimes the air is so cold that instead of water droplets, ice crystals form on those specks of dust. When the clouds become too heavy, precipitation occurs. Rain is the most common form of precipitation. However, rain is not what you will see if the temperature is below freezing. If it is below freezing, the ice crystals fall to the ground as snow.

Snowflakes can be made of as many as 200 ice crystals. If you were to look at a snowflake under a microscope, you would find that most are symmetrical hexagons (six-sided figures). These beautiful, unique creations can also take the shape of columns, stars, needles, or even triangles. Although you might find two snowflakes that are similar, you will never find two snowflakes that are exactly alike. That is because the molecules that form the ice crystal can arrange themselves in an infinite number of ways. Snowflake formation is also affected by temperature and humidity. Sometimes, as the ice crystal falls to the ground, water vapor in the air sticks to it, forming a larger crystal. Once the flake hits the ground, it will melt if the ground temperature is above freezing. If it is below freezing, the flakes could **accumulate**¹ - perfect for making snow angels, building snowmen, and having snowball fights!

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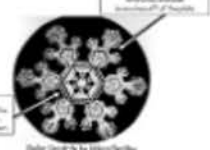
¹accumulate: gather or build up

2

Bentley's Snow Crystals

In 1863, when Bentley was a 17-year-old farmer in Vermont who captured the world with the first photograph of a snow crystal. The snow crystals he took were 100 times larger than the ones he saw with the naked eye.

It all started when Bentley was in Vermont and the weather brought him some snow. He was excited to see it snow. He had only been in Vermont for a short time. Many of the people there were farmers who worked the land. Bentley was a farmer, and he had a camera. He had heard that the camera could take pictures of things that were too small to see with the naked eye. He decided to try it. He took a picture of the snow crystals. He was so excited that he took a picture of the snow crystals. He was so excited that he took a picture of the snow crystals.



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Discreet Leveling



SNOW

^Snow Paired Texts Assessment

* Required

Email address *

Your email

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6. How does the photograph in Bentley's Snow Crystals help the reader? *

1 point

- It gives the reader a close-up view.
- The reader can see a piece of Bentley's work.
- It defines the parts of a snow crystal.
- all of the above

7. Which quote from Snowflakes shows an example of condensation? *

1 point

- "When the clouds become too heavy, precipitation occurs."
- "Water takes the form of a gas called vapor, and rises into the atmosphere."
- "...the sun heats the water in our oceans, lakes, rivers, and other bodies of water."
- "When the vapor cools, it turns back into tiny water droplets."

Why are snowflakes unique? *

3 points

Support your answer to the question with evidence from both texts.

Your answer
