



SNOW SCIENCE:

Snow begins as a speck of dust or salt that rises into the sky. As it reaches the clouds, water molecules start to attach to it. This droplet grows as more and more water molecules connect. When the droplet cools, it freezes into an ice crystal. Over time, it grows heavier and begins to fall. Continued condensation changes the crystal's shape as it falls from the clouds into warmer air where many clump together to form snowflakes.

TRY THESE ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE IN THE SNOW:

Catch a Snowflake

You can catch a snowflake by simply holding out your hand, but it will melt quickly. Would you like to keep a snowflake for observation? Place a dark piece of fabric or paper in your freezer for 15 minutes then take it outside and catch snowflakes on the dark surface. Examine them with a magnifying lens. What types of crystals are falling in your backyard?

Snow Art

To get creative in the snow, fill a spray bottle with water and food coloring of your choice. Head outside and start spraying a masterpiece on the snow. Remember to switch up the colors!

Make a Snow Gauge

Did you ever wonder how much snow falls in your neighborhood? Make your own snow gauge to find out. Tape a ruler to the inside of an empty coffee can. At the start of the next snow storm, put the container outside in an open area away from trees and buildings. When the storm ends, check the ruler to find out how much snow fell. Is it the same as the weather report?

Snow Melt

How much water is actually in snow? You will need three containers that are all the same size. Fill one with water, one with ice cubes and one with snow. Make a prediction about how much water will be left after the snow and ice cubes melt. It may take a little while for melting to occur. Use a measuring cup to determine how much water is left in each container.

Frozen Bubbles

On a cold winter day with no wind, take a bottle of bubble liquid and wand outside. Blow bubbles as big as you can and see what happens to them in the cold!



FUN FACTS:

- ❄️ During the Blizzard of 1978, 38 inches of snow fell in Woonsocket, RI – the most recorded in State history.
- ❄️ The most snow recorded in the U.S. during a 24-hour period was 75.8" in Silver Lake, Colorado in April 1921. That's more than 6 feet!
- ❄️ On May 9 & 10, 1977, North Foster, RI received 12.1" of snow. That's a lot of snow for springtime!
- ❄️ MythBuster: Not all snowflakes are different! A scientist in 1998 found two snowflakes from the same storm that were exactly alike.

