

The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter's Wonder

by Mark Cassino

A visually stunning exploration of the science of snow offering basic information about the formation and structure of snow crystals. Snowflake-catching instructions are also included.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *How do snow crystals form?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if that snow crystal in the magnifying glass is a real one?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter's Wonder*

- vapor: water in the form of gas
- crystal: something that has the form of a crystal like a snowflake
- bacteria: a tiny microorganism responsible for diseases
- microscope: a device used to produce a larger image of an object
- hexagon-shaped: a shape that has six sides
- column: something shaped like a long cylinder or tube
- wither: shrivel or dry up

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How big is a speck?
- How many sides does a snow crystal usually have?
- What is the most common shape of a snow crystal?
- Which is prettier – a star crystal, a plate crystal or a column crystal?
- Which numbers on a clock do the star crystal's arms point to?
- What is the magic number for snow crystals?
- What are the little bumps on a snow crystal called?
- How many snow crystals does it take to make a snowflake?

Do

Catch Snow Crystals

Follow the instructions for catching your own snow crystals on page 32. Be sure to read the Snow-Catching Tips first! No snow? Make your own snow crystals by crushing ice.

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