

Kindergarten - Lesson K1.3

What Makes It Snow?

Teacher Background

In Lesson 1.3, students build upon what they have learned about clouds and rain and apply it to why and how snowflakes form.

Learning More about Snowflakes

The main point young students should understand is that water droplets in clouds can be cold enough to form tiny six-sided ice crystals and that these crystals fall through the cloud and sky and develop into snowflakes.

Additional information and more detail on how snowflakes form can be found at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) website <https://scijinks.gov/snowflakes/>.



To see incredible photos and video of snowflakes forming, and an even more in-depth explanation about snowflakes, visit <http://www.snowcrystals.com/science/science.html>.

Modeling the Six Points of a Snowflake

The only hands-on component of the lesson is when students create their own six-sided snowflakes using whole and half cotton swabs. This is another example of using a model to learn and understand more about a structure or process. If you have a preferred method for making six-sided snowflakes that you think your students can do, you should try it.

