

Experiment on your own!

Ever wonder how snowflakes can create so much snow? You can make slides of snowflakes to examine.

Compare the images you viewed to those on the California Institute of Technology Web site, located at <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~atomic/snowcrystals/primer/primer.htm>

On a snowy day, place slides and a liquid plastic spray-on resin outside to reach the same temperature as the snow. When they have reached the right temperature, follow these steps:

Step 1

Holding each microscope slide sideways (to prevent snow from falling on it before you are ready), spray the slide with resin.

Step 2

Turn the slide upright to catch snowflake(s) on the resin. Resin will coat the snowflake; then the snowflake will leave an imprint of its shape.

Step 3

Leave the slide outside for a few hours to set.

You may want to use black felt to catch the snowflakes, then transfer the snowflakes to the slides. It may also be useful to use clothespins to hold each slide to prevent them from warming up in your hand.

Write a description of: Facts you discover about the snowflakes you examined. Are they alike – or different?

Electronic Quest

You'll find a ton of information from these articles on snowflakes and snowfalls on these Web site!

In Praise of Snow by Cullen Allen, *Atlantic Monthly*, January 1995

<http://www.its.caltech.edu/~atomic/snowcrystals/primer/primer.htm>

Mount Washington Observatory <http://www.mountwashington.org/index.html>

New England's Changing Climate, Weather, and Air Quality <http://www.neci.sr.unh.edu/neccwaq.html>

National Weather Service's Northeast River Forecast Center <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/nerfc/index.shtml>



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