

Name _____

Snowflake Science

Do you wonder how snowflakes are created? Read the diagram below to find out. Then answer the questions about the **sequence** in which the shiny crystals form. **Sequence** is the order of events, ideas, and details. You'll have a flurry of fun!



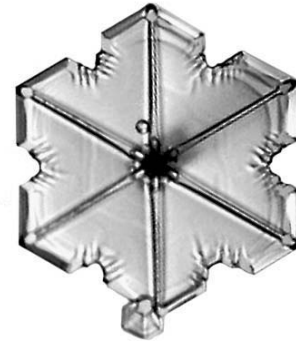
1. A snowflake begins as a group of ice crystals. The crystals are created when water vapor in a cloud shrinks. The water vapor then freezes around dust particles.



2. Frozen **molecules**, or tiny particles, stick together. They form a six-sided shape called a hexagon.



3. The ice crystals develop detailed shapes through **branching** and **faceting**. Branching occurs at the corners. Faceting creates thin plates and edges.



4. Temperature and **humidity** help determine a snowflake's final shape. Humidity is the amount of water in the air.

Snowflakes: Kenneth Libbrecht

1. What has to happen first in order for an ice crystal to form?

4. What happens after a snowflake becomes a hexagon but before it reaches its final shape?

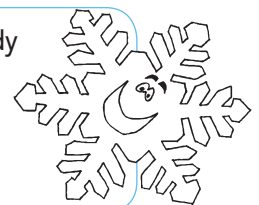
2. What happens just before a snowflake becomes a hexagon?

5. What happens after a snowflake goes through branching and faceting?

3. In how many steps after water vapor freezes around dust particles does a snowflake reach its final shape?

GET WRITING Get ready

to put your snowflake smarts to the test! On a separate piece of paper, write a speech explaining how the ice crystals form.



ANSWERS

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1. Water vapor in a cloud shrinks.
2. Frozen molecules stick together.
3. three
4. The snowflake's corners and edges branch and facet.
5. Temperature and humidity help determine a snowflake's final shape.