

KEEPING STUDENTS WELL INFORMED AT HOME WHILE THEY'RE DISTANCE LEARNING.



Many people enjoy winter sports like skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, skating, sledding and driving snow machines.



Snow is also good for snowball fights and building snow people or snow castles.

In a word

The word **winter** may trace its origins to an old Germanic word that means "time of water" and refers to the rain and snow of winter.

A year with no summer

1816 has been called the Year Without a Summer in the Northern Hemisphere. An unusual cold fell across the Eastern United States, Atlantic Canada and Northern Europe. Freezes in May killed newly planted crops. Snow fell in New York and Maine in June, and ice formed in lakes and rivers in July and August. In the U.K., snow drifts remained until late July, and the Thames River froze in September.

Did you know?

The countries with the coldest, snowiest winters are located in the Northern Hemisphere.

Hypothermia and **frostbite** are dangerous. Protect your body heat by dressing warmly and in layers. Avoid sweating and stay dry. Do not eat snow, as it will lower your body temperature.

Rochester, New York, is the snowiest large city in the U.S., averaging nearly 100 inches (255 cm) a year.

Blizzards often follow a warm spell.

Some snowdrifts are deep enough to bury cars and trucks.



The snowshoe hare has brown fur during warm months, but it turns white in winter to blend in with the snow.

WORLD OF WONDER WINTER

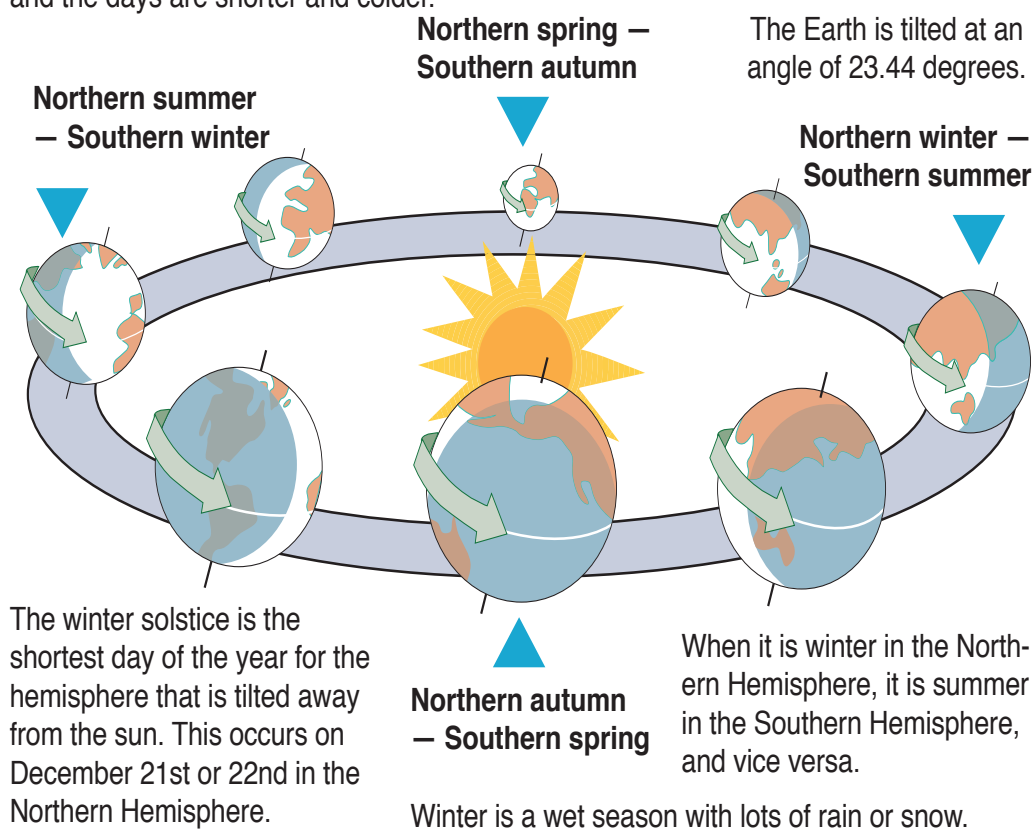
Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology

The coldest season of the year, winter can be defined in a variety of ways. Astronomical winter is based on the position of the Earth in its orbit around the sun.

Meteorological winter is based on the annual temperature cycle and the calendar. Ecological winter is defined by the behavior of animals, such as hibernation and migration, and also by the dormancy period of plants. People who enjoy winter sports might define winter as when the snow comes.

The seasons

The seasons are the result of the angle of the Earth as it moves around the sun. Because the Earth is tilted, each hemisphere leans toward the sun in summer and away from it in winter. In each hemisphere's winter, that part of the Earth gets less sunlight, and the days are shorter and colder.

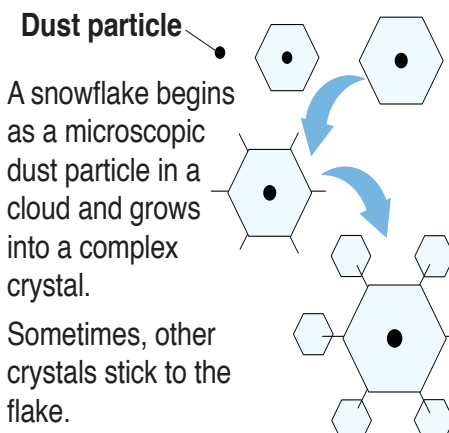


Snowflake facts

Snow appears to be white, but it is transparent. The crystals act like prisms, breaking up the light into the spectrum of color, making the snow appear white, or sometimes blue.

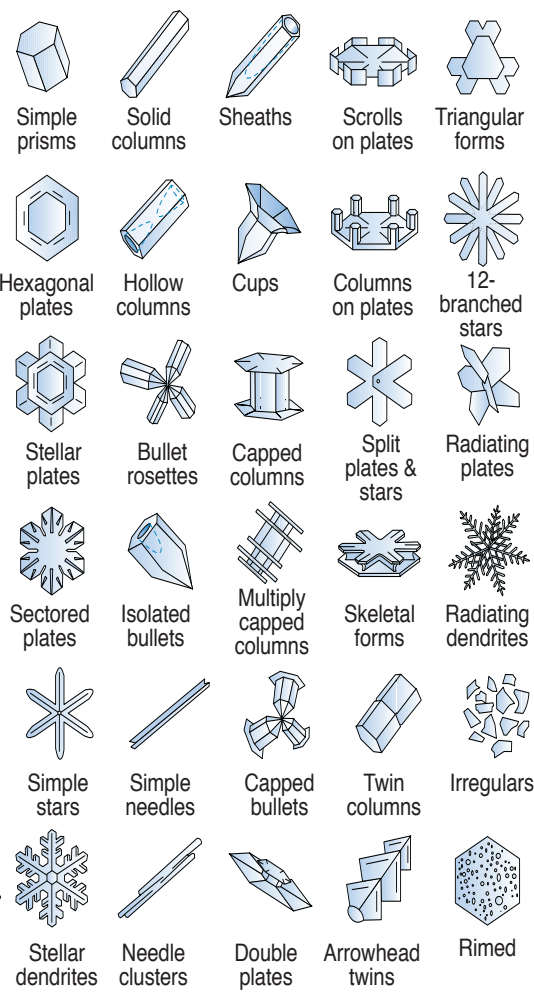
Snow crystals are not frozen raindrops; that is sleet. Snow crystals form when tiny supercooled cloud droplets freeze directly into ice, without first becoming liquid water.

There are roughly 1,018 water molecules in a snowflake, and each flake grows at a different rate depending on water saturation and temperature. This is why snowflakes come in so many different shapes.



Types of snow crystals

The illustrations below shows some of the more common and distinctive types of snowflakes.



Unlike migratory swallows, many birds, such as woodpeckers, chickadees and cardinals, do not migrate south for the winter.



Surviving

To survive cold winters, some animals have extra fur for protection. Others hibernate and sleep through the winter, while some are migratory and move to warmer climates. In harsh winters, only the strongest and healthiest animals survive.

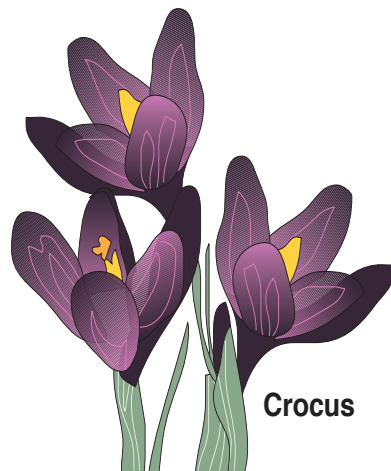
Mythology

The ancient Greeks explained the origins of winter with the myth about Persephone, who was kidnapped by Hades. While in the underworld, Persephone ate six pomegranate seeds, so Zeus decreed that she would spend six months with her daughter Demeter and six months with Hades. Persephone's deep sadness while with Hades causes the winter.

Persephone and Hades



The appearance of flowering plants like the crocus can mark the change from ecological winter to spring.



Crocus

SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; <https://learning-center.homescience.com>; <https://www.livescience.com>; National Weather Service; NOAA

© 2020 Triefeldt Studios, Inc.
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

LEARN ABOUT **LABRADOR AND NEWFOUNDLAND** IN THE NEXT INSTALLMENT OF WORLD OF WONDER

CASA GRANDE
Dispatch
Pinal County's Daily Newspaper

Newspapers
in Education

OUR WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION PAGE CAN BE A FUN LEARNING TOOL FOR YOUR KIDS. CHECK BACK EACH THURSDAY FOR A NEW, EXCITING TOPIC!

CASA GRANDE
Dispatch

TO SUBSCRIBE:
(520) 423-8685

