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Newsletter

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## Snowflake Observation

“Look Mommy, it’s snowing!” The first snow of the year brings a sense of magic as we watch the snowflakes fall softly to the ground. While adults may worry about shoveling the driveway, power outages, piles of wet clothes and snowboots, or getting to work through the snow, children revel in the cold white splendor that transforms the world into a winter wonderland.

But what are snowflakes? Simply put, they are frozen water. Here’s how they form. Water vapor cools and freezes to form soft, feathery hexagonal (six-sided) crystals. Within the hexagonal pattern, snowflakes form in countless intricate, lacy patterns. At temperatures just below freezing, flakes sometimes clump together to make large snowflakes. If you live in an area where it snows, try catching some pretty snowflakes to observe.

### **What You Need:**

Snowflakes, piece of black velvet or felt, freezer, magnifying glass

### **To Make:**

Chill the velvet or felt in the freezer for fifteen minutes or more.

☆ **Activity 1:**

Have your child quickly take the chilled fabric outside and let snowflakes fall on it. Look at the flakes through a magnifying glass.

☆ **Activity 2:**

Invite your child to draw snowflake designs on paper. Show him how to draw with white pencil or crayon on dark colored paper.