

# Petrified Forest

For Kids!

## At Home Activity



### Let it Snow!

Many people don't think of snow when they think of Arizona but it does snow here. Petrified Forest is located in northern Arizona and sits at an elevation of about 5000-6200 ft. Snow can fall between November and April but the most snowfall occurs in January and February. Snow is just as important as rain for providing needed moisture to plants and animals living in the park.

Does it snow where you live? There are lots of fun activities you can do outside in the snow but have you ever looked closely at a snowflake to see the patterns and differences? With the following activities you can capture snowflakes to inspect them before they melt and create your own paper snowflake shapes.

#### Activity 1: Capture Snowflakes

##### Step 1:

Put your black construction paper in your freezer to chill.

##### Step 2:

Take your chilled construction paper outside when snow is falling. The cold paper will prevent the snowflakes from melting right away so you can look at them with your magnifying glass or take a picture for later.



#### What you need:

- Black construction paper
- A freezer
- Magnifying glass
- Camera (optional)



## Snowflake Observations:

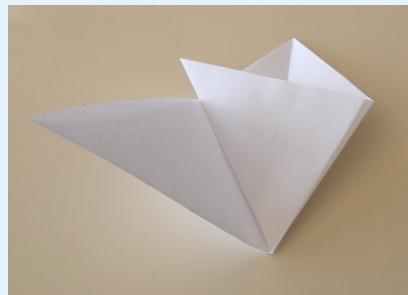
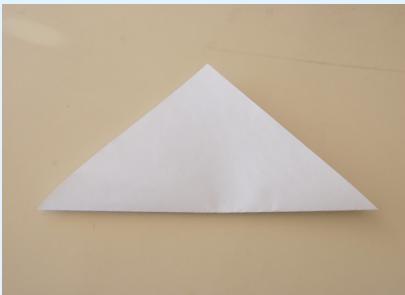
Look at more than one snowflake and count the number of points they each have on the outside edges. Do they all have the same number of points or are they all different? What do you notice about the shapes of the snowflakes?

Imagine there is a line down the middle of the snowflake. Does the snowflake look the same on both sides of the line? A whole snowflake should be mostly symmetrical which means that it will look almost the same on both sides of a dividing line. This happens because when water vapor freezes to make snowflakes it 'grows' in a crystallization process that follows the structure of water. No two snowflakes are the same because each snowflake that forms is changed by the temperature and how much moisture is in the air.

## Activity 2: Make a Paper Snowflake

### What you need:

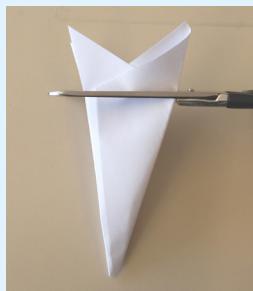
- Paper
- Scissors
- Imagination



Start with a square piece of paper and fold it in half.

Fold one corner over the middle of the triangle.

Then fold the other corner over.



Fold the whole thing in half on the center line.

Cut off the top points.

Cut holes in the edges for your snowflake pattern.



### Snowflake Math Teasers:

Since your snowflake will have six sides you can predict the number of holes it will have if you only cut on the folded edges. Count the number of holes you cut and multiply that by six. Unfold your snowflake and see if you are right. If you cut holes in an edge without a fold how many holes will that make in the snowflake? Why is this different than when you cut into the folded edges?