



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
www.nps.gov/piro/forteachers.htm

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“Exploring the World of Winter” Winter First Grade In-Class Activity

Michigan Science Objectives: At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Explain why we have a winter season (Atmosphere 3).
2. Explain how snow is formed and why it changes shape (Changes in Matter 1).

Thinking Skills: Interpreting and predicting.

Overview of Activity: Students will observe demonstrations of why we have different seasons and how snowflakes are formed. They will learn of different Native American terms for snow and be introduced to a snow investigation they could monitor.

National Park Connection: National Parks are great places to explore different types of snow and the ways Native Americans lived with the snow.

Procedure:

1. Using a globe for the earth and a flashlight for the sun, demonstrate positions of the two during the seasons. Have the students take turns doing the same. Next, have students draw a picture of this relationship.
2. On the board, illustrate how snowflakes are formed. Show students charts of the ten different kinds of snowflakes (appendix 3), and explain how these depend on moisture amounts and temperatures.
3. Discuss the ways the temperature of snow can change (sunlight, wind, pressure, nighttime), thus changing snow banks and drifts.
4. Show charts of different Native American terms for snow and discuss why there are different terms.
5. Introduce snow investigation with white and black painted boards to be set out on a snowdrift. Have students predict and measure snow melt under the boards.

Materials needed: Globe, flashlight, chalk and chalkboard, snowflake identification charts, Native American snow term charts, white and black painted boards, paper and pencils.

