

# **Snow Science**

Snowflakes form when water droplets freeze onto a tiny piece of dust way up in the sky, creating an ice crystal. As it falls down to the ground, more water droplets freeze onto the first crystal. The unique shape of each snowflake is determined by the *temperature* (how cold the air is) and *humidity* (how wet the air is). Warmer temperatures create bigger snowflakes with more complex branching patterns.

#### Make A Crystal Snowflake at Home

You need:

- string
- wide mouth mason or pint jar
- white (or any colour) pipe cleaners, each cut into three even pieces (with adult help)
- boiling water (with adult help)
- Borax (20 Mule Team Borax Laundry Booster), available at supermarkets in the laundry section,
- pencil and tape
- 1. Twist three pieces of pipe cleaner together to make a six-pointed star shape. Tie a piece of string around one end of the pipe cleaner, and the other end around the middle of the pencil.
- 2. Fill the jar ¾ full with boiling water and add Borax 1 spoonful at a time (3 T Borax per cup of water). Stir until dissolved. A little powder may settle on the bottom of the jar.
- 3. Dip pipe cleaner into the water and lower it until it is suspended halfway down into the jar. Roll pencil to shorten the string if needed. Lay the pencil across the top of the jar to hold the pipe cleaner in place. Make sure the pipe cleaner is not touching the sides of the jar.
- 4. Secure the pencil to the jar with tape. Leave overnight. In the morning, pull the pipe cleaner out of the jar and you will have a beautiful crystal snowflake!



#### WINTERSCAPING IDEA:

Make several crystal snowflakes to decorate your home or front yard. Hang them from tree branches in your front yard, or in your front window.

#### Winter Word Scramble

Unscramble the words to reveal the bird's mystery name! (Hint: all the words are things you may need for winter. *Answer at bottom of page*)

| TBOSO  | <del></del> |            |
|--------|-------------|------------|
| LOVESH |             | My name is |
| ECAJKT | <del></del> |            |
| TASKES | <del></del> |            |
| FSACR  | <del></del> |            |

For more fun winter printables, visit <a href="www.edmonton.ca/winterscapes">www.edmonton.ca/winterscapes</a>



### Information For Parents and Guardians

Winterscaping is a great way for kids and adults to have fun outside creating a beautiful winter front yard at home, school, work, or your group location



Why not have a winterscape-making party with friends?



- Use snow, ice, stones, and plant materials to create snow creatures, fun winter scenes, and more
- Make a bird feeder or ice ornaments to hang from trees
- Use snow as a blank canvas for snow painting with food colouring and water
- Add a few garden lights or keep your winter lights up all season





## Nominate Your or a Neighbour's Winterscape for An Award

- Visit edmonton.ca/winterscapes for more info and winterscaping ideas
- Nomination categories include Winter Yard, Winter Art, and Winter Play
- Submit a photo online Jan 12 Feb 22, 2015 through our webpage
- Weekly prize draws for submitted nominations

Questions? front.yards@edmonton.ca











