

Snow Crystal Prints

We studied many photographs of snow crystals taken by two artist/scientists; Wilson Bentley and Kenneth Libbrecht. Both men were fascinated by the beauty and mathematical structure of snow crystals. Wilson Bentley took the first successful black and white photographs of snow beginning way back in 1885! We also saw colorful photos that were taken by Kenneth Libbrecht very recently.

We looked at the geometry in snow crystals and learned that all snow crystals begin with the formation of a hexagonal prism from water vapor. They grow into the beautiful shapes we see depending on the air temperature, the moisture content in the air and how many collisions they have on their way to the ground!

We made snowflake prints that have **radial symmetry**, like real snow crystals. Wilson Bentley said, “no two snow crystals are identical”. Is he right? Look closely at our snow crystals!

“The question is not what you look at, but what you see.”

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)



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