

Name \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Visual Art

Read the following passage about snowflakes before completing the activity.

## Know About Snow?

LISTEN to  
your child read  
this story aloud.

We love to roll in it, catch it on our tongues, play with it, throw it, ski and sled in it, make pretend ice cream out of it, and just look at its beauty. It is cold. It is white. It is wonderful. What is it? SNOW!

In 1931, Wilson Alwyn Bentley photographed snowflakes and published the pictures in a book called *Snow Crystals*. Before then, people had not realized that snowflakes were really crystals, and they did not know that every flake that ever fell from the sky was different from every other one.

The shape of a snow crystal depends on how cold the weather is, how much water is in the air, and how hard the wind is blowing. Snowflakes can look like stars, columns, plates, or bullets. Most often the crystals freeze together and make a six-pointed star. The shape of the crystals determines if the snowflakes will make a light and fluffy powder—which is great for skiing—or if it will make the thick and heavy snow that is perfect for making snowmen.

The next time you are in snow, do what Mr. Bentley did. Let a few flakes fall onto something that is dark colored, and use a small magnifying lens to look at them. You are sure to see beautiful snowflakes and you can remember, as you play in the snow, that each one is different.

By Mary Rose

Work by *Work Framework for Building Reading Comprehension and Fluency: Grades 2-3*  
SCIENCE AND TEACHING RESEARCH

41

Snowflakes are 6-sided figures that have symmetry, which means each of the 6 branches are alike. Use at least 12 pattern blocks to cut and paste a snowflake of your own design. Here is an example:





