

Artful Activities for Early Learners



MoMA

These activities for children ages four and up can be done with teachers, parents, and caregivers, at home or in a classroom.

Look closely

- What do you notice about this snowflake?
- How many sides or points do you count?
- What words would you use to describe it?
- What does it make you think about?
- Have you ever caught a snowflake on your glove or mitten? What do you remember about it?

Learn

A snowflake is made up of tiny ice crystals that combine to create complex shapes. The crystals themselves usually have six sides, and are symmetrical, which means they are made up of exactly the same parts on all sides. Wilson Alwyn Bentley was the first known photographer of snowflakes. He caught snowflakes on black velvet, a type of soft fabric, then took a picture before the snowflake either melted or changed.

Paint a winter watercolor

Suggested materials: watercolor paper or thick white paper, watercolors, a white crayon, table salt, a paintbrush, a bowl for water

1. Use a white crayon to draw snowflakes all over a piece of paper.
2. Using watercolors, paint all over your paper to reveal the snowflakes you drew.
3. While the watercolors are still wet, sprinkle salt over your paper and watch crystals form where the salt lands.
4. Wait until your painting is completely dry, then carefully brush away the excess salt.

Explore more

See how snow transforms everything it covers in this joyful short film titled *White Out*, by Jeff Scher. The film is composed of approximately 2,250 watercolor paintings on paper. <http://bit.ly/whiteout-scher>



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Image: Wilson A. Bentley. *Snowflake*. c. 1905. Gelatin silver printing-out-paper print. Acquired in memory of John Parkinson III through the generosity of his friends