

The Magical World of Snowflakes

Materials Needed

- **For Snowflake Science:** Pictures or a short, child-friendly video of magnified snowflakes, a magnifying glass (optional), a piece of dark-colored construction paper (optional, for catching real snow).
 - **For Snowflake Craft:** Round white coffee filters (1-2 per person), child-safe scissors, glitter, glue, or glitter glue pens.
 - **For Snow Cream Treat:** A large, clean bowl, 4-6 cups of fresh, clean snow (or 4 cups of crushed ice as an alternative), 1/2 can of sweetened condensed milk, 1/2 teaspoon of vanilla extract, mixing spoons, and small bowls for serving.
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Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- Tell a friend that snowflakes have six points.
 - Create your own special six-pointed snowflake craft.
 - Help make and taste a yummy snow cream treat.
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Lesson Plan

Part 1: Introduction - The Secret of Snowflakes (5 minutes)

Hook

Let's start by imagining something magical! Close your eyes and pretend you are standing outside while it's snowing. A tiny, sparkly snowflake lands right on your nose! (*Gently tap the child's nose*). What do you think it would feel like? Cold? Tickly?

Did you know that every single snowflake has a special secret? Today, we are going to be snowflake detectives and discover that secret together!

Tell them what you'll teach

"Today, we are going to learn what makes snowflakes so special, make our very own sparkly snowflake art, and then make a delicious snow cream snack!"

Part 2: Body - Becoming Snowflake Experts (25-30 minutes)

Activity 1: Snowflake Science (I do, We do)

I DO (Educator Explains): "Look at these amazing pictures of snowflakes! They look like tiny, sparkly jewels, don't they? Snowflakes are made of frozen water, like tiny ice crystals that fall from the clouds."

They have a super special secret. Let's look closely... every single one has arms, or points. Let's count the points on this big one together."

(Point to a clear picture of a snowflake and count slowly out loud)

"One... two... three... four... five... six! Every real snowflake has SIX points. That's their secret!"

WE DO (Guided Exploration): "Now it's your turn to be a detective. Let's look at some other pictures. Can you help me count the points on this one? How many are there? That's right, six! What about this tiny one? Six again! Isn't that amazing?"

- **Formative Assessment (Quick Check):** Hold up a picture and ask, "How many points does this snowflake have?"
- **Real-World Connection:** If it is snowing, go outside with the dark paper and magnifying glass. Catch some snowflakes and look at their six points together.

Activity 2: Making Our Own Snowflakes (I do, We do, You do)

I DO (Educator Demonstrates): "Since we're snowflake experts now, let's make our own! Watch me first. I'm going to take this round paper, fold it in half to make a taco, then in half again to make a pizza slice, and one more time to make it a skinny little triangle. This is how we make sure it has six points when we open it!"

(Demonstrate the three folds clearly. Then, snip little shapes—triangles, half-circles—out of the sides of your folded paper.)

"Now for the magic... watch what happens when I open it up! Ta-da! A beautiful snowflake with one, two, three, four, five, six points!"

WE DO (Guided Practice): "Let's fold your paper together. Here is your coffee filter. First, let's make a taco... good job! Now, a pizza slice... excellent! And one more tiny fold. Perfect! You can hold it while I help you make the first little snip with your scissors."

YOU DO (Independent Creation): "Now it's your turn to be the artist. You can snip any little shapes you want out of the sides. Be creative! When you are done cutting, gently open it up to see your special snowflake. Then, you can add sparkly glitter to make it shine."

- **Success Criteria:** The child successfully makes cuts in the folded paper and is excited to see the result. The focus is on the process and discovery, not a perfect shape.

Activity 3: Making Snow Cream (We do)

WE DO (Collaborative Creation): "All that hard work made me hungry for a snowy treat! Let's make some snow cream. First, we need our big bowl of clean snow."

(Have the child help with each step.)

"Can you help me pour the sweet milk over the snow? Let's pour it all around. Great! Now, let's add a little bit of vanilla for flavor. Okay, grab a spoon and let's stir, stir, stir! We need to mix it all together until it's like yummy, slushy ice cream. Let's take turns stirring."

(Once mixed, scoop into small bowls to enjoy.)

Part 3: Conclusion - Snowy Recap & Celebration (5 minutes)

Recap

(While enjoying the snow cream.)

"This snow cream is delicious! Let's talk about our amazing work today. Can you tell me the special secret we learned about all snowflakes?" *(Answer: They have six points.)*

"And look at the beautiful, sparkly snowflake you made! It's so unique. You're a fantastic snowflake artist!"

Tell them what you taught

"Today, you learned that snowflakes are special because they all have six points. You became an artist and made your very own, and you became a chef and made a yummy winter treat. You are a super snowflake expert!"

Differentiation

- **For Extra Support (Scaffolding):** Pre-fold the coffee filter. Draw lines on the folded paper for the child to practice cutting along. For the snow cream, have the ingredients pre-measured and focus only on the pouring and stirring steps.
- **For an Extra Challenge (Extension):** Introduce the idea that "no two snowflakes are exactly alike." Look at many different pictures to prove it. Challenge the child to make a second snowflake that looks totally different from their first one. Talk about why snow melts (when it gets warm) while eating the snow cream.