



Tis the Season!



That's right; it is that time of year again. Cold temperatures, icicles forming around the edges of your home, and everybody's favorite – SNOW!

Many would say we are pretty lucky to get some snow every year. Have you ever wondered how snow is formed?

Water comes in three different forms:

- a solid,
- a liquid,
- and a gas.

Snow is formed when water as a gas (water vapor) changes directly into a solid (ice) without first becoming a liquid.

The water vapor freezes onto tiny bits of dust carried way up in the air by wind. This happens high in the atmosphere with cold temperatures, less than 32 degrees Fahrenheit. This is the temperature when water as a liquid will start to freeze solid.

Snow is a form of precipitation! **Precipitation** is when enough water in the form of a gas sticks together to form a liquid again. The liquid gets too heavy to stay in the clouds and falls down to Earth. Depending on



the temperature in the air, that water could be in the form of snow, or rain, or something in between like sleet or freezing rain. Precipitation always comes from the clouds but not all clouds have precipitation.

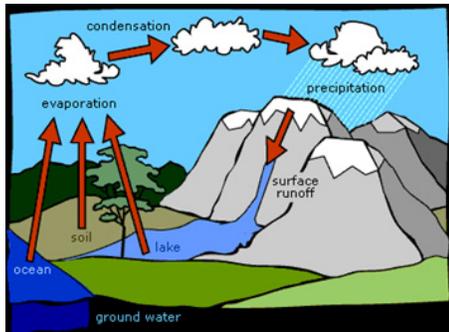
Snow has some very unique properties. Every snowflake has six sides, but no two snowflakes look alike. Have you ever noticed how quiet it is outside when it snows? Snow helps to insulate sounds. Snow can also help clean the air. Snowflakes, like raindrops can act like "dusters" picking up small particles of air pollution as the snowflakes fall toward the ground.

Winter Storm Watch & Warning

The National Weather Service alerts us on winter storms. A WINTER STORM WATCH means that wintry weather may reach our area in the next couple of days. It gives us time to prepare. A WINTER STORM WARNING means that winter weather in the form of heavy snow, blowing snow or sleet is expected. These warnings are usually given when the storm is on its way, so you can get ready! How would you prepare for a winter storm? Think about food, warmth, travel, lights, and don't forget your pets!

Another reason to love snow...

Snow that falls in the mountains this winter will melt in the spring and flow into our rivers and



collect in our lakes. It will even seep into the ground to recharge our aquifer and become the water that we drink.

How much snow we get in the winter impacts how much water we have the rest of the year. If there is not enough snow in the mountains it could be a very dry year for the river, lakes and underground water.

Community Calendar:

February 13 - I Love Clean Air activities
Mobius Science Center
10 a.m. - 2 p.m., admission fee

April 26 - Spring Compost Fair & Arbor Day
Celebration
Finch Arboretum
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Snowball

by Shel Silverstein

I made myself a snowball as perfect as can be.
I thought I'd keep it as a pet and let it sleep with me.
I made it some pajamas and a pillow for its head.
Then, last night it ran away.
But first it wet the bed.

EnviroKids' Points & Prizes!

Earn points by participating in EnviroKids' activities!

Whether it's visiting the EnviroKids' booth at

- community events or completing activities in the newsletters, you will earn points to redeem for COOL prizes.

- 10 points — EnviroKids pencil
- 20 points — Seed packets
- 50 points — Recycled piggy bank or pencil holder
- 100 points — Rain gauge or Little Spokane Journal

Look at the mailing label on this newsletter. You will see a number next to your name. That is the number of points you have earned so far. Remember, members need to earn points at least once per calendar year to remain active in the club. Want to earn more points? Start today and do the activities in this newsletter!

Here is an example of what the mailing address looks like, and where you can find your prize points number.

Suzy Que, **25** → prize points = 25
1010 Environmental Ave
Spokane, WA, 99201

Sparkle Snow Paint

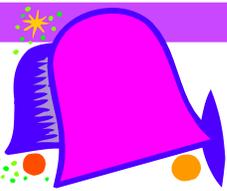
What you will need:

- ½ cup flour
- ½ cup salt
- ½ cup water

Members can earn 5 points. Email us a photo of your creation!

Mix together and put in a squeeze bottle (reuse an old mustard or ketchup container). Squeeze doughy paint out on to black construction paper. Or you can put food coloring in the mix and squeeze onto another color of construction paper. Make anything snowy: snowflakes, snowmen, snow covered mountains. Let it dry thoroughly and it will sparkle.



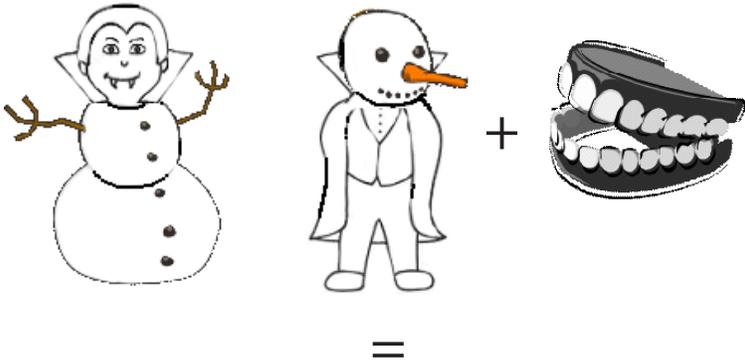


Fun & Games!

Members can earn 5 points by completing this activity!

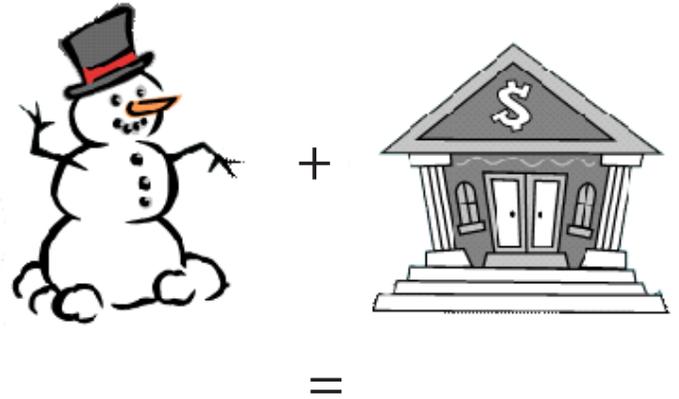
Figure out the answer to these fun brain teasers!
The pictures will give you tips.

What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?



Hint: this can happen to your ears when you don't wear a hat in very cold weather!

Where does a snowman keep his money?



Hint: this word is used to describe large piles of snow!

Make your own crystal snowflake!

Members can earn 5 points. Email us a photo of your snowflake!

Each snowflake is six-sided and made of as many as 200 ice crystals. As the crystals grow, they become heavier and fall towards the ground. Find out how crystals are formed in this fun activity.



What you'll need:

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| String | White pipe cleaners | Boiling water |
| Wide mouth jar | Blue food coloring (optional) | Borax |
| Pencil | | |

Instructions:

1. Take a white pipe cleaner and cut it into three sections of the same size. Twist these sections together in the center so that you now have a shape that looks something like a six-pointed star. Make sure the points of your shape are even by trimming them to the same length.
2. Take the top of one of the pipe cleaners and attach another piece of string to it. Tie the opposite end to your pencil. You will use this to hang your completed snowflake in the crystal solution.
3. Carefully fill the jar with boiling water (an adult should help with this).
4. For each cup of water add three tablespoons of borax, adding one tablespoon at a time. Stir until the mixture is dissolved but don't worry if some of the borax settles at the base of the jar.
5. Add some of the optional blue food coloring if you'd like to give your snowflake a nice bluish tinge.
6. Put the pipe cleaner snowflake into the jar so that the pencil is resting on the edge of the jar and the snowflake is sitting freely in the borax solution.
7. Leave the snowflake overnight and when you return in the morning you will find the snowflake covered in crystals! It makes a great decoration that you can show your friends or hang somewhere in your house.



EnviroKids' Club

EnviroKids' Club
c/o Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency
3104 E. Augusta Ave.
Spokane, WA 99207

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Spokane, WA
Permit No. 722

**See inside for
Activity Details!**

Members can earn 5 points
by completing each special
EnviroKids' activity that is
marked with a gold star!

EnviroKids'... caring for the Earth

EnviroKids' Club provides its 200+ members with information and activities to explore aspects of the environment: air, water, weather, garbage and recycling, plants and animals. The Club is open to all Spokane County residents who are in grades K-6.

Club members receive a newsletter in the mail four times a year. The newsletter contains activities to complete and ideas for activities at home or in the community. Members who are interested can complete activities and/or participate in some of the events to earn points. Earned points can then be used to trade-in for prizes. **Members need to participate in at least one activity per calendar year to receive newsletters.** For more information, visit www.spokaneenvirokids.org.

To earn points, mail your completed activities by April 30, 2014 to:

EnviroKids' Club c/o National Weather Service
2601 N. Rambo Rd. Spokane, WA 99224

Fill in this form with the activities page complete and send it back to us to earn your points! Do you have a friend or sibling who would like to join Envirokids' Club? Copy this page for them to send in and be added to our mailing list.

Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

My child has permission to participate in EnviroKids' Club activities that I accompany him/her to and permission is granted to use his/her photo that may be taken at such event, for promoting the Club (newsletter, flyers, ads, website, etc.)

Parent Signature. Please print name, then sign and date

EnviroKids' Club Partners: National Weather Service, Spokane Aquifer Joint Board, Spokane Conservation District, Spokane County Water Resources, Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency, and Spokane Regional Solid Waste System.

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