



The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter's Wonder

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How do snow crystals form? What shapes can they take? Are no two snow crystals alike? These questions and more are answered in this visually stunning exploration of the science of snow. Perfect for reading on winter days, the book features photos of real snow crystals in their beautiful diversity. Snowflake-catching instructions are also included.

The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter's Wonder Details

Date : Published October 7th 2009 by Chronicle Books

ISBN :

Author : Mark Cassino

Format : Kindle Edition 36 pages

Genre : Science, Nonfiction, Childrens, Picture Books

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From Reader Review The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter's Wonder for online ebook

Marcia says

What is more beautiful than a snow crystal? Stunning photography combined with easy to understand science explains how snow is formed in this terrific book. A perfect companion book to Snowflake Bentley, and a great addition to a study of winter or the water cycle.

Mischenko says

The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter's Wonder by Mark Cassino is a non-fiction picture book for children which teaches all about snow.

It's a simple read that begins with clouds, and takes you through the life cycle of a snowflake in an easy to understand format.

It contains the most beautiful and fascinating snowflake pictures I've seen. Children will learn about all the different shapes of snowflakes and the dendrites they form.

"Snow crystals are like us-we're each different, but we have a lot in common."

This is a great book for anyone who want to learn about snow.

5*****

Chelsea says

The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter's Wonderland by Jon Nelson and Mark Cassino describes how snow is formed. Starting with a small "speck," they then begin to grow into three different types of snow crystals: star, plate, and hollow. The authors then go further into the science behind the shape, size, and uniqueness. The story ends with a tutorial on how to catch your own snow crystal.

This story has many elements of informational text such as marginal comments. These comments help to explain the pictures. For example when discussing where the specks may come from, they describe what piece of of the flower, leaf, or ocean could be the source of the snowflake. Since this text is very informationally heavy these little snippets help to clarify the complex explanations in the main text.

Another common aspect of informational text is shown in the images. In this book the authors use a variety of drawings, diagrams, and real photos. The real photos and diagrams help to parallel the academic tone of the text, and the drawings help to add a personal feel so that it is not completely informative.

Vanessa says

"The Story of Snow-The Science of Winter's Wonderland," is a non-fiction picture book written by Mark Cassino (a nature photographer) along with Jon Nelson, Ph.D. (a snow scientist) and illustrated by Nora Aoyagi. This is a wonderfully written book that focuses on such questions as: How do snowflakes form? What shapes can they take? And, are no two snowflakes really alike? All these questions plus more are answered throughout the 33 wintry illustrated pages. The authors dive into the exploration of the science of snow, featuring photos of real snow crystals in all their beauty and unique forms, and provides a how-to-section, that shows the readers how they can collect and study their own snowflakes.

"Our story starts on a winter day, high up in the sky, in a cloud that is very, very cold. This is the story of snow."

The book begins by telling how snow begins with a speck; tiny particles of dirt, ash, salt, or living bacteria that can float in the wind and end up in a cloud, and how these specks are necessary for the snow crystal to start growing. When water vapor gets cold enough, it will stick to the speck. A simple diagram illustrates these steps until the snow crystal forms a snowflake. The book goes on to explain how a snow crystal forms as it falls; how snow crystals can be in the shapes of stars, plates, and columns; and how snow flakes are rarely perfect.

I truly enjoyed reading this book. I believe that it would be a great book to read to a science class during the winter months. A teacher could use the "How to Catch Your Own Snow Crystals" section to help their students to learn with a hands on experiment! I highly recommend!

Elizabeth Lau says

The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter's Wonder is an informational picture book written by Mark Cassino and Jon Nelson and illustrated by Mark Cassino and Nora Aoyagi. This information book informs readers about the formation of snow. It discusses how snow forms in crystals but they are much too small to see without a microscope. Furthermore, it mentions how there are six arms on snowflakes and that sometimes one arm can grow longer than another. Overall, I think this book was very informative but a little boring.

Cassino and Nelson utilize many different elements of literature throughout The Story of Snow. There is an instance in this picture book when a picture is used as an image in the book. Included is a picture of a snow picture on a glove. This picture really adds to the informative book because it shows a real-life picture of what the author is informing readers about—snow crystals. Furthermore, the illustrations are completed in the realism style. This was a very important choice for this style of book because it is important that readers understand what snowflakes actually look like. Overall, the illustrations were done very well and added a lot to the story.

Mikhaila Ackerbauer says

1. Awards the book has received (if any): None
2. Appropriate grade level(s): 4th-5th
3. Original 3-line summary: The book goes over in depth the cycle of a snowflake and what occurs for one to be made. There are very interesting illustrations that completely capture the information. This book is filled

with information on the complexity of each snowflake.

4. Original 3-line review: This book has lovely illustrations that accurately depict the creation of a snowflake. It is very interesting seeing the cycle of a snowflake covered in such depth. Children will be able to walk away with a new understanding of the complexity of how these particles from the sky are actually created.

5. 2-3 possible in-class uses: This book is wonderful for a study on different seasons or even individuality. Children can create their own charts for the creation of a snowflake or draw/cut out a unique snowflake. Additionally, the back of the book provides a wonderful activity for catching snowflakes, which would be so fun to do with students!

Lisa Vegan says

I am a science nerd, though not a very well educated one. So, this book thrilled me. All throughout the book there are photographs of actual snow crystals (magnified of course.)

The book tells in detail how snow crystals form, and I found the information fascinating. At the end, there's a project about how to catch your own snow crystals, which could make for a fun and educational activity.

I also highly recommend the book Snowflake Bentley. Reading the two books at about the same time would allow each one to enhance the experience of the other.

Eliane says

This book is about the snow, clouds, and how the snow works. I like this book because this talk about the snow - how do the snow crystals form, what shapes they have. Are no two snow crystals alike? I give this book 5 stars.

Kathryn says

I WOULD GIVE THIS BOOK ***** SIX STARS IF I COULD. Everyone that lives where it snows or might snow should have this book, it explains everything so easily and even tells you how to catch snowflakes!

Nicole Keenan says

This is a non-fiction book informing children how snow is formed. This book targets primary aged students (PreK-3) I selected this book due to its amazing diagrams and explanations of how snow is formed. As children's minds are skeptical about everything, this book really helps explain how snow comes about. The pages, pictures and diagrams are very neat and colorful. This book is very easy to understand as it is a

simplified explanation of how snow is formed. I picked the fiction book Snow by Cynthia Rylant to be this book's twin text. I picked the Snow book because it is a story about a girl spending a snow day with her mother and grandmother. These books correlate with each other because the non-fiction book informs us about how snow is formed and the fiction book is about a girl and her family on a snow day. Both books include beautiful illustrations.

Crystal Marcos says

I read The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter's Wonder to my daughter today and it surprisingly held an 18 months old attention most of the book. I loved the book and I do enjoy learning. A perfect read for this time of year. I can't wait to get out and check out the next snow fall. The book explains how to see snow crystals at their best. Seeing as how I live in WA state it is always iffy around here whether or not we will see snow. I am crossing my fingers! I want to share what I learned with my husband and family. Books that educate and draw families closer together are winners to me! The photographs were breathtaking!

This is another great book found in the picture book club. This month's theme is "Winter"
<http://www.goodreads.com/topic/show/4...>

Ray says

It was interesting to learn the originality from a scientific view of snow flakes. How they formulate in different parts of the cloud depending on the temp and the altitude of each setting. They also give you a great hint of capturing a snowflake yourself so you can see the different varieties. Living in a snowy area we'll have plenty of opportunities to try such a project.

Kathryn says

I love snowflakes (but, as I now know after reading this book, I should call them "snow crystals") and this is a wonderful introduction to the science behind snow for children and, I think, adults, too. The illustrations are mostly photographs of snow crystals and they are exquisite. I think snow crystals are one of the most beautiful things in nature and I absolutely love the variety and that no two are alike. The text is pleasant, accessible and informative without being too dry (or trying too hard to be "fun") or overwhelming. The story of snow from its formation in clouds, thanks to certain weather patterns and specks of dust in the air, to their continued evolution as they begin to fall, and finally to ways that you might be able to see some up close before they melt here on earth.

This made me want to reread "Snowflake Bentley" a wonderful picture book biography on the man who took the first photos of snowflakes in the 1800s.

It also makes me want to go play in the snow :-)

Valerie Gomez says

This story begins with describing the parts that go into how snow is created. It details the creation of snowflakes through simple words, and gives illustrations to show them. Starting from water, it shows how snowflakes grow and form into a pattern not visible to our eye. The pages following share the different shapes snow crystals can have, a common one being a star. Although it shows the detail, it describes how while snow crystals fall to earth they can change rapidly. This is also displayed through enlarged photographs of snow crystals. Snowflakes form from more than a thousand snow crystals. In order to see a snow crystals before it adds to the snow in the ground, you have to catch it in a specific way.

This book is an informational picture book that describes the creation and life of a snow crystal. The illustrations for the snow crystals consist of actual photographs, which show the realism and curiosity of what they look like singly. The background is off white, so that the snow crystals can stand out. There are a couple easy to understand diagrams in the book. One of them being how the snow crystals grow in size using arrows for the process. The colors throughout the book, don't contrast or overpower the message of the book. They are consistent with blues and whites. Each page has an enlarged text that describes what information will be on the page. There are small areas of text included in the corners of the book, that describe the images and restate what the larger text was saying. The text itself is not lengthy or hard vocabulary making this an easy read. The snowflakes take up most of the background, so young readers can focus on the images while the text is being read. The size of the book is small and square, so it is easy to hold for young students and lets the reader know it won't be covering an excessive amount of information. Overall the book shares enough information to understand the process of snow crystals to young readers. It was great how photographs were used for the pictures, to enhance the learning experience. Without being overly knowledgeable, this book explains the process, as well as the characteristics of snow crystals. If shared along with the book Snowflake Bentley, this would help young students understand more about the earth.

Anna Smith says

Story Summary: This book is great on how to describe a snowflake! It gives you a real look into what they are made of and how they can look! Snowflakes are beautiful and this book allows everyone to see them in different forms! Just like children are different !!

Grade Level: 3-5

Classroom use: Winter science classes

Individual: Students who love winter

Small Group: Discuss the differences between the snowflakes

Whole Classroom: Make snowflakes in the classroom to decorate !!

Related Books: Any science books, or winter themed books

Multimedia: None
