

In Good Shape



There's nothing like waking up to a blanket of sparkling snow covering your yard. Snow is beautiful and fun to play in, but it only forms when conditions in the sky are just right.

When the temperature in the clouds falls below freezing with enough humidity (moisture in the air), we get snow. And when the ground is at or below freezing, snowflakes will reach the ground and stick without melting.

Snowflakes are not frozen raindrops. They form when ice crystals are created directly from water vapor (water in gas form) in the air.

Snowflake shapes are based on air temperature and humidity. Larger, more complex snowflake designs form when the air is around 5°F with high humidity.

Because every snowflake forms by unique conditions, every snowfall can create different types of snowflakes. Up to 1 septillion snowflakes fall every year—that's a 1 with 24 zeros after it! And just think—the Creator sends each one (Psalm 147:16)!



I'm **Peter Schriemer!** As a wildlife educator and TV host, I get excited about tracking down God's creatures! Join my adventures on my Answers TV show *Hike & Seek*.



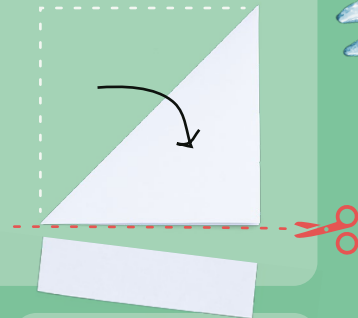


Make a Snowflake!

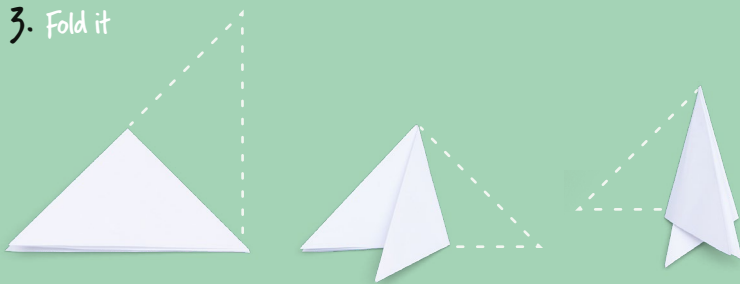
Snowflakes come in many shapes and sizes. Grab some paper and a pair of scissors and make your own unique flakes! When you're done, use markers, glue, and glitter for extra pizzazz.

1. Fold it

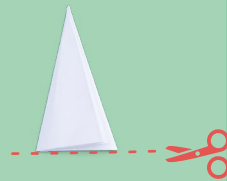
2. Cut the extra



3. Fold it



4. Cut the tails

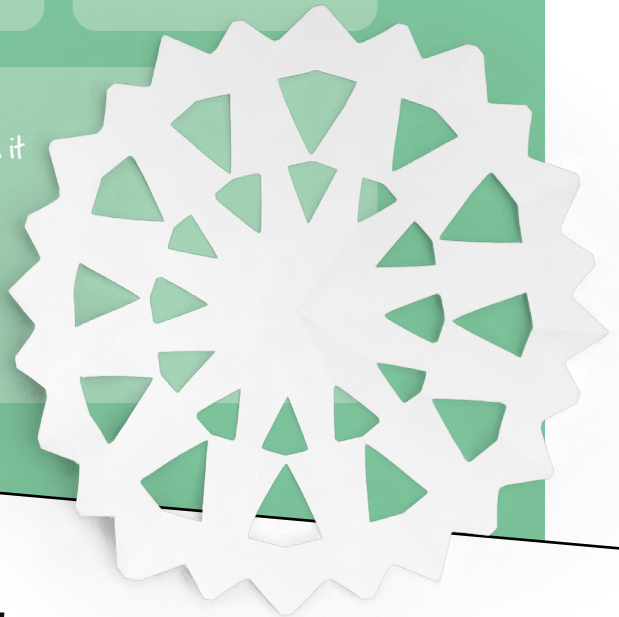


5. Shape it

Cut different shapes from all three sides of your triangle.



6. Unfold it



Fun Facts

- » A snowflake can take up to one hour to reach the ground, giving it plenty of time to grow.
- » The largest snowflake ever recorded was 15 inches across. That's bigger than a pizza!
- » Glaciologists (scientists who study ice crystals) have discovered that snowflakes form in one of 35 basic shapes.
- » Though snow is cold, it acts as an insulator. Animals that live beneath the snow stay protected from the cold temperatures above the snow.

