

# What do you know about snow?

Snow consists of ice crystals that differ in shape, but always have six sides. Some snowflakes have as many as 100 ice crystals clinging together!

Snow is a source of power! When snow melts in the mountains, the water flows downhill into streams which provide power for hydroelectric power plants.

Snow is a good insulator. It protects plants and hibernating animals from the bitter cold.

Snow can cover as much as 23 per cent of the Earth's surface. In colder climates, where the snow stays on the ground year 'round,

the snow becomes dense and turns into ice, forming glaciers. If you think skiing is a great sport, you're not alone. Cave paintings depict earliest man on skis.

## Soap makes great snow for decorating

Here is an easy way to decorate wreaths, windows and Christmas trees with the look of fresh snow. All you need is a box of laundry soap (not detergent) and water.

Begin by mixing the soap and water together with an electric or rotary beater. The mixture should be the consistency of meringue or whipped cream. If you're making snowballs or figures, the mixture should be dense. One regular size of soap should not have more than two cups of water added.

After the mixture is complete, you can apply the snow to trees or other greens. Wearing rubber gloves protects you from the pine needles. Drape handfuls of the snow on each branch. For a lighter snowfall, flick the soap on using a whisk or long-bristled brush.

The last step is to sprinkle the mixture with dry soap flakes. This gives your decorations the fluffy white look you want. Let your decoration dry at least 90 minutes before moving.

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