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Snowflake Riddles



30 riddles from easy to tricky. Write your answer on the line. Answers are on the last page.

Easy riddles ★

1. I'm a tiny piece of ice that drifts down from a winter cloud. Many of me have six points, and I melt on your tongue. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

2. Lie on your back in fresh snow, sweep your arms and legs back and forth, then stand up carefully. What did you make?

   ANSWER _____

3. School is closed because the roads are covered in snow, so you get to stay home and play. What kind of day is it?

   ANSWER _____

4. I'm round and cold, and I'm thrown in winter fights where nobody gets hurt. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

5. I'm built from big rolls of snow stacked on top of each other, with a carrot for a nose and sticks for arms. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

6. I keep your four fingers together in one warm pocket, with your thumb in a room of its own. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

7. Most snowflake stars have the same number of arms. How many?

   ANSWER _____

8. I'm a big snowstorm with strong winds. I blow so much snow around that it's hard to see across the street. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

9. I'm a ride made of wood or plastic that you steer down a snowy hill. Then you have to pull me back up. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

10. Snow is made of ice, and ice is clear like glass. So what color does a pile of snow look?

    ANSWER _____

Medium riddles ★★

11. A snowflake begins when water vapor freezes onto something very small floating in the cloud. What could that tiny thing be?

ANSWER _____

12. I was a farmer in Jericho, Vermont. In 1885, I became the first person to photograph a single snowflake, and people nicknamed me after it. Who am I?

ANSWER _____

13. Over his life, the Vermont snowflake photographer took pictures of about how many snow crystals: 50, 500 or more than 5,000?

ANSWER _____

14. I'm the classic snowflake shape, with branching arms like tiny ferns. My name comes from the Greek word for "tree." What am I?

ANSWER _____

15. Why does the world sound so quiet after a fresh snowfall?

ANSWER _____

16. Snowflakes form in clouds that are colder than the temperature at which water freezes. What is that temperature in Celsius?

ANSWER _____

17. I'm a big truck with a wide blade on the front. After a snowstorm, I push snow off the roads. What am I?

ANSWER _____

18. I'm a dome-shaped house built from blocks of snow, used by Inuit hunters on long trips across the ice. What am I?

ANSWER _____

19. Water molecules join up as they freeze in a pattern with six sides. That's why snowflakes have six sides or arms. What is a six-sided shape called?

ANSWER _____

20. Not all snow crystals are stars. In clouds a few degrees below freezing, some grow into long, thin rods, like tiny sewing tools. What are they called?

ANSWER _____

Tricky riddles ★★★

21. In a cloud, water vapor can turn straight into ice without becoming a liquid first. That's how snowflakes grow. What is this jump from gas to solid called?

ANSWER _____

22. I start out as a snowflake, but tiny drops of cloud water freeze all over me until I look like a soft little foam ball. My name is a German word. What am I?

ANSWER _____

23. Each snowflake's arms grow a little differently depending on the temperature and dampness it meets on its trip down. So what can you say about two big, branching snowflakes?

ANSWER _____

24. In 1936, a Japanese scientist became the first person to grow snow crystals in a laboratory, and he showed how temperature and moisture change their shape. Who was he?

ANSWER _____

25. To cut a paper snowflake with six points, you fold a square sheet in half, then fold it into how many equal parts?

ANSWER _____

26. A snowflake has 6 arms. Each arm has 3 little branches on each side. How many little branches does the snowflake have?

ANSWER _____

27. It snowed 2 inches every hour for 5 hours. Then the sun came out and 1 inch melted. How deep is the snow now?

ANSWER _____

28. I'm a snow crystal shaped like a short column with a flat plate stuck on each end, a bit like a spool of thread. What am I called?

ANSWER _____

29. Which is heavier: a ton of snow or a ton of ice?

ANSWER _____

30. School usually starts at 8:00, but because of snow there's a 2-hour delay. What time does school start today?

ANSWER _____

Answers

Snowflake Riddles · answer key · print or fold this page away before you hand out the sheet

1. **A snowflake**
2. **A snow angel**
3. **A snow day**
4. **A snowball**
5. **A snowman**
6. **Mittens**
7. **Six**
8. **A blizzard**
9. **A sled**
10. **White**
11. **A speck of dust.** Bits of pollen or salt from the sea can work too.
12. **Wilson "Snowflake" Bentley**
13. **More than 5,000**
14. **A dendrite**
15. **Fresh snow absorbs sound.** The air pockets soak it up like a sponge.
16. **0 °C, which is 32 °F**
17. **A snowplow**
18. **An igloo**
19. **A hexagon**
20. **Needles**
21. **Deposition**
22. **Graupel**
23. **They're almost certainly different.** Tiny, simple crystals can look alike, but nobody has found two matching big, branching flakes.
24. **Ukichiro Nakaya**
25. **Thirds**
26. **36 branches. 3 × 2 = 6 per arm, and 6 × 6 = 36.**
27. **9 inches. 2 × 5 = 10, and 10 − 1 = 9.**
28. **A capped column**
29. **Neither.** They both weigh a ton.
30. **10:00**

Need a hint? Every riddle has one at riddlepedia.com/snowflake-riddles/, where you can also play them as a game.