

# Snowflakes

## Stellar dendrites

- ✿ These are the most recognisable snow crystals. The name comes from their star-shaped appearance, along with their branches and side branches.
- ✿ 'Dendrite' - means 'tree-like'.

## Snowflake fun facts

1

In the Australian Alps, once snowflakes settle on the ground, they start to join together and lose their individual shapes quickly, as temperatures are often not much below freezing for long.

Snowflakes can be made from as many as 200 ice crystals fused together.

2

3

Different types of snowflakes include: stellar plates, stellar dendrites, fern-like stellar dendrites, hollow columns, and capped columns.

4

The smallest snowflakes are called diamond dust crystals, and can be as small as the diameter of a human hair.

5

All snowflakes have a six-sided structure, as does ice.

6

All snowflakes are one of a kind because each ice crystal has its own individual path to the ground. They will float through clouds of varying temperatures and different levels of moisture, allowing the ice crystals to grow in a unique way.

## Snow trivia

- ✿ Snowy Hydro measures the depth and water content of snow by using a **Federal Sampler**.
- ✿ The snow has been measured every week at Spencers Creek since 1954.

## Did you know?

Snow melt is an important part of the water cycle and Snowy Hydro later uses the water from melted snow to generate electricity.

Colour in your individual snowflake before it melts!

