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DATE _____

Dancing Snow

DEBUSSY "The Snow is Dancing" from Children's Corner

WHAT IS SNOW?



This piece of music is written about the dancing motion of falling snow. Have you ever been in snow? What was it like? Write a description here.

WHAT IS SNOW?

This seems like a simple question, but let's look a little deeper!

Snow is a type of precipitation; **precipitation** is liquid and solid water particles falling from clouds to the ground. **Rain** is the liquid form of precipitation. **Snow**, or tiny ice crystals, forms when the temperature is at or below freezing, and there is at least some moisture in the air. **Snowflakes** form when these ice crystals start to clump together, naturally forming six arms. Every snowflake is unique and beautiful! Of course snow is cold, because water only freezes below 32°F.

Snow helps to cool the planet by reflecting. This is also how it gets the bright white color we see!

WHY IS SNOW WHITE?

All visible light appears white, but it actually contains all of the colors in the spectrum. The **color spectrum** includes all the colors in the rainbow that we can see—red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet (use the acronym ROYGBIV to remember these colors!). All surfaces absorb and reflect visible light differently; the light that is reflected is the color of the object in that light. This is where the different colors we see around us in the world come from! Watch this [video](#) to learn more.

Since snow reflects nearly all light, it absorbs almost none, which is why it appears so bright white on the surface. However, deep snow can act as a kind of filter and tends to absorb red light, so the light that is reflected looks blue. This is how deeper snow gets a blue tint; it is reflecting back the blue light in the spectrum!

What is snow?

Why is snow white?

What is the color spectrum?

All colors in the color spectrum can be seen when a ray of light passes through a prism. Using the acronym ROYGBIV as a clue, write in the colors in boxes. Then use crayons or colored pencils to shade in the right spectrum colors.

