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DATE _____

Footsteps in the Snow

DEBUSSY Footsteps in the Snow

WHAT IS SNOW?



This piece of music is written about walking in the 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** forms when water particles high in the clouds freeze. When the cloud is cold enough, these water particles freeze, turning into tiny crystals of ice. When crystals start to clump together, they form **snowflakes**, which fall to the ground as snow when they get heavy. Of course snow is cold because water only freezes below 32°F. But it actually helps cool the planet by reflecting sunlight away from the Earth's surface and back into the atmosphere. 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.

