

THE SNOWFLAKE MAN



Have you ever tried to find two snowflakes *exactly* alike? If you have, you know it's impossible. No two snowflakes are ever identical. The reason for this is a mystery that excited Wilson Bentley enough to dedicate his life to "saving" every snowflake he could.

Born on February 9, 1865 in Jericho, Vermont, Wilson Bentley *loved* snow. He was fascinated by the intricate designs of each snowflake. If only he could find a way to save them so that others could enjoy their beauty, too. He tried drawing snowflakes but they always melted before he finished. When he was 17, his parents took all their savings to buy him a special camera with a microscope. Now he could photograph snowflakes!

Willie spent a whole winter in a shed in his backyard, catching snowflakes on a black tray. His first tries at photographing snow all ended in failure. He experimented that winter and the next, before finally succeeding.

Now everyone could see the beauty of each snow crystal, unique designs that would never happen again. When he was sixty-four, his book, *Snow Crystals*, was published. Wilson Bentley, the Snowflake Man, had given a great gift to the world.

In Willie's hometown of Jericho, Vermont, you can still read the monument dedicated to "Snowflake" Bentley, Jericho's world famous snowflake authority.

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NAME _____ DATE _____

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT WILSON BENTLEY

1. Is it possible to find two snowflakes that are exactly alike?
 - a. no
 - b. yes
 - c. sometimes
 - d. every second winter.

2. Wilson Bentley dedicated his life to _____.
 - a. saving the beauty of winter.
 - b. finding a way to invent a new snow shovel.
 - c. drawing snow scenes.
 - d. saving the beauty of every snowflake.

3. He was born in 1865 in what town and state?
 - a. Snowflake, Vermont.
 - b. Billings, Montana.
 - c. Bentley, Wisconsin.
 - d. Jericho, Vermont.

4. When drawing snowflakes failed, what method did Wilson use to preserve snowflakes?
 - a. painting snow.
 - b. taking movies.
 - c. photographing snow.
 - d. freezing snowflakes.

5. Wilson Bentley wrote a book titled _____.
 - a. *Snowflakes*.
 - b. *Snow is Falling*
 - c. *Snowflake Man*
 - d. *Snow Crystals*

6. What was Wilson Bentley's nickname?
 - a. "Snowflake" artist
 - b. "Snowflake" Bentley.
 - c. Bentley the "Snowman."
 - d. "Snowflake" Jericho



NAME _____ DATE _____

ANSWERS

1. a
2. d
3. d
4. c
5. d
6. b

