

Tantalizing, Tessellating Snowflakes

What does math have to do with snowflakes? Snow is formed when ice crystals collide and stick together. These snowflakes are *hexagons* (six-sided figures). Many geometric shapes, like hexagons, can *tessellate*, or fit together to make a pattern with no spaces or overlapping edges. Follow the directions below to create your own unique snowflake using the tessellating hexagon that has been drawn for you.

Directions:

- Carefully cut out the tessellation along the bold cutting line. (Fig. 1)
- Fold the tessellation in half, being careful to line up the matching edges. (Fig. 2)
- Carefully fold the tessellation in half again. (Fig. 3)
- Fold the tessellation in thirds by first folding the left side to the center and then folding the right side over the left side. (Fig. 4)
- Snip designs into each side of the folded tessellation (being careful not to cut off a fold). (Fig. 5)
- Unfold and admire your unique snowflake. (Fig. 6)

Fig. 1



Fig. 2

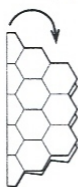


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

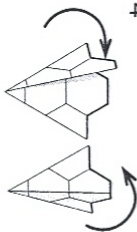


Fig. 5



Fig. 6

