How a Snowflake Forms

Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

A snowflake is not just a frozen drop of water. It forms slowly, and it grows in a cloud.

It starts with water vapor. That is water as a gas. It moves through the air and lands on a particle, a tiny bit of something. There it changes from a gas to a solid. Now it is a tiny ice crystal.

Ice crystals have six sides. So a snowflake usually starts with six flat sides.

Then it can grow branches. Water vapor sticks to the first thing it touches. So a small bump on the flake catches vapor. The bump gets bigger and catches more. It grows into a branch!

The flake blows back and forth in the cloud. Some parts are colder or wetter. Each change shapes the flake. So no two snowflakes are just the same.

1. **Where does a snowflake grow?**

2. **How many flat sides does a snowflake usually start with?**

3. **How does a snowflake grow a branch?**

4. **If you could look at a snowflake up close, what would you look for?**

Answer key

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1. Where does a snowflake grow?
   In a cloud.

2. How many flat sides does a snowflake usually start with?
   Six.

3. How does a snowflake grow a branch?
   Water vapor sticks to a small bump. The bump gets bigger and catches more vapor until it is a branch.

4. If you could look at a snowflake up close, what would you look for?
   Sample answer: its six sides and its branches, to see how it is not the same as the other flakes.