

Weather in Art





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A sheet of paper that is folded three times can be cut to make a snowflake.

The Patterns of Snowflakes

If you live in or visit a place where it snows, you can try to catch a snowflake. You need to do this very fast because snowflakes melt quickly from the heat of your hand.

Snowflakes are too little for you to see their patterns with just your eyes. You need a big glass lens to see the snowflakes. Through the lens, you will see that each snowflake has its own pattern. Some look like the lace on a party dress. Some snowflakes have thin lines that branch out like trees. No two snowflakes look the same, but they all have six sides.

Make Your Own Snowflakes

- Take a sheet of white paper and fold it in half and then fold it in half two times more.
- Now cut small shapes along the sides.
- When you open your paper, you'll find a snowflake with six sides.



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Sunlight that shines through a bottle of water can make a rainbow of colors.

Light Makes Rainbows

Watch what happens when the sun shines through a glass of water. All the colors of the rainbow seem to dance on the wall. You can see red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple.

On a hot day, you might see spots of color in the water as you spray plants with a hose. When it rains, water drops in the sky can split sunlight into a big rainbow. Even the light through your window can make tiny rainbows on the floor when it shines through a vase or a glass cup.

Make Your Own Rainbows

- You can make a rainbow with a glass of water, a mirror, and a flashlight in a dark room. The mirror goes inside the glass of water. The mirror needs to be on its side facing out.
- Put the glass of water with the mirror on a table. Turn out the lights. Make sure no light is coming through the windows.
- Now turn on the flashlight and shine it through the side of the glass toward the mirror. If you put your hands on the table beside the glass, a rainbow will cover your hands.



Nicole Tagliabue | Dreamstime

Moving air pushes the paint on the paper.

Look at the Wind!

Wind is air that moves. When air flows fast or slow, we call it wind. This moving air can push and pull things, like the leaves and branches on trees. The wind can send leaves falling from trees. Wind can make the tops of tall trees bend left and right. When the wind gets strong, flags can snap in the air.

Make Your Own Wind Art

- You can make a picture that shows the way in which the wind moves. First, put some black paint in the middle of a page.
- Next, get a straw. Now blow through the straw at the paint. The paint will run across the page, just like the wind in the trees.
- Tip the page up or down to make the paint flow. Blow soft and blow hard to see what the wind can do.
- When you are done, you will have art that looks just like the wind's path.



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Use cotton balls to make puffy clouds.

Cloud Pictures in the Sky

Look up at the clouds floating in the bright blue sky. Sometimes clouds seem to make a picture as they float by. A cloud might make you think of a rabbit with long ears, a fish with fins moving back and forth, or a dragon with wings spread wide. Even tiny clouds can look like something special, like boats sailing across the blue sea. Huge clouds can look like giant ice cream cones, reaching to the top of the sky.

Make Your Own Cloud Art

- You can create your own cloud shapes. Start with blue paper for the sky. Use cotton balls for puffy clouds. Pull the cotton balls apart to make long, streaky clouds or stack them up for tall tower clouds.
- You can also paint cloud shapes with white paint and a sponge. For wispy clouds, tear white paper into long, thin shapes.



arif hidayatullah | iStockphoto

Paint drips can look rain.

Rain Patterns

Look out a window when it rains. Drops of rain fall on the window. Each drop starts small and round. Some drops seem to race each other down the glass. When they meet, the drops join and slide down the window together.

When you are outside in the rain, watch as a puddle of water forms. When a drop of rain hits the puddle, it makes rings in the water. The rings get big and fade away. More drops make more rings and the puddle gets bigger.

Make Your Own Rain Art

- You can make a picture that looks like rain. First, put on an old shirt so you do not get paint on you
- Get blue paper, white paint, a big brush, and water. Mix the white paint with water to make it runny.
- Hold your brush high over the paper. Let the paint drip down.
- Some drops of paint will run fast, some slow. Some drops will meet and mix up. Your rain painting looks just like the rain outside.



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