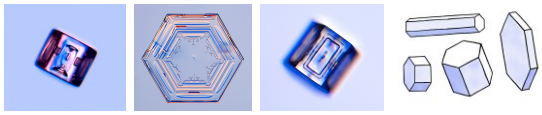
Snowflakes and Symmetry

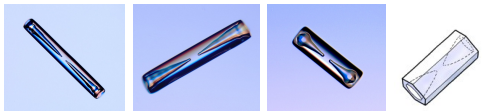
1. Almost 500 years ago, Kepler wrote a math paper about the six-fold symmetry of snowflakes. No two snowflakes are identical; however, snow crystals usually are one of several types.

2. **Simple Prisms**



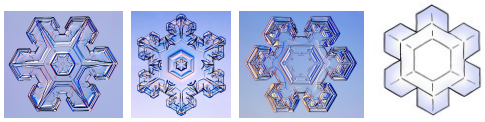
Simple prisms are usually too small to be seen by the naked eye!

3. **Hollow Columns**



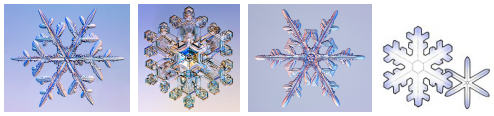
These crystals are hexagonal columns with hollow, conical regions at the ends. Occasionally the ends close up and bubbles form in the ice!

4. **Stellar Plates**



Stellar plates are one of the most common types of snowflakes.

5. **Stellar Dendrites**

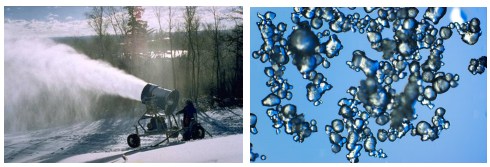


These "tree-like" snow crystals are 2-4 millimeters large and are easily seen by the naked eye.

6. **Fernlike Stellar Dendrites**

At 5 millimeters, fernlike stellar dendrites are the largest snow crystals.

7. **Artificial Snow**



Artificial snow consists primarily of frozen water droplets and does not have the nice, elaborate crystals of naturally occurring snow.

Pictures from: http://www.its.caltech.edu/~atomic/snowcrystals/class/class.htm