

# THE LIFE CYCLE *of a* Snowflake



**S**nowflakes form when dust or pollen particles come into contact with water vapor and freeze in the Earth's atmosphere.



**O**nce it freezes, the particle forms a crystal of ice and the process of building a snowflake begins.



**T**he water molecules inside each crystal arrange themselves into a six-sided structure.



**W**hen the snowflake becomes heavier than the air around it, it begins to fall through the atmosphere.



**A**s the snowflake falls, more crystals begin to form as they come into contact with humidity. The hexagonal pattern remains as the flake increases in size.

