

Vocabulary: Holiday Snowflake Designer

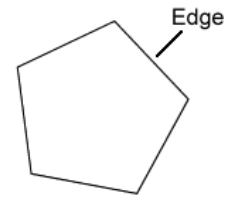


Vocabulary

- Axis of symmetry – a line that separates mirror images.
 - If you fold an object along an axis of symmetry, each side will match perfectly.
 - All the snowflakes pictured below have six axes of symmetry.
- Edge – a line segment that forms a side of a polygon.
 - A polygon is a closed shape with three or more straight sides. Examples of polygons include triangles, rectangles, pentagons, hexagons, etc.
- Reflection – a mirror image.
- Snowflake – a crystal of ice that falls through Earth’s atmosphere.
 - Snowflakes form when supercooled water vapor freezes in clouds. Once the core has frozen, more water vapor freezes onto the growing crystal to form a snowflake. Eventually the ice crystal falls to Earth.
 - Although their symmetry is not perfect, snowflakes generally have six axes of symmetry.
 - Wilson “Snowflake” Bentley (1865-1931) was a Vermont farmer who photographed thousands of snowflakes. Some of his images are shown below.



Axis of symmetry



- Symmetry – a property of a figure in which one part perfectly matches another when the figure is transformed in some way.
- Vertex – a point on a polygon where two edges meet.

