Name: _____ Date: _____

How an Icicle Grows

Circle group

In winter, you may see icicles. They are clear spikes of ice. They hang from a roof. An icicle is made one drop at a time.

Snow is on the roof. The sun warms it. Some snow melts into water. The water runs to the edge of the roof.

A drop hangs at the edge. The air is cold. The drop starts to freeze. Then more water comes. It freezes on the ice.

Drip by drip, the ice grows long. It ends in a point.

Icicles can be heavy. They can fall. Stay out from under them.

Questions

1. Where do icicles hang?

_____

_____

2. What melts the snow?

_____

_____

3. Why does the drop freeze?

_____

_____

4. What shape is the bottom of an icicle?

_____

_____

5. Why should you stay out from under an icicle?

_____

_____

Words to know

icicle: a pointed spike of ice hanging down
melts: turns from ice or snow into water
freeze: to turn from water into ice
drip: to fall in small drops

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How an Icicle Grows

Triangle group

On a winter day, you may see sharp, clear spikes hanging from a roof. They are icicles. An icicle is made one drop at a time.

It starts with snow on the roof. The sun shines and warms the snow a little. Some of the snow melts into water. The water runs down to the edge of the roof.

At the edge, the water hangs in a drop. The air is still cold, so the drop begins to freeze. A little ice forms. Then another drop slides down and freezes on top of that ice.

Drip by drip, the ice grows longer and longer. It grows into a point at the bottom.

Icicles look beautiful, but they can be heavy. They can fall without warning. Stay out from under them.

Questions

1. Where do icicles hang?

_____

_____

2. What melts the snow on the roof?

_____

_____

3. Why does the drop at the edge freeze?

_____

_____

4. What shape does the bottom of an icicle have?

_____

_____

5. Why should you stay out from under an icicle?

_____

_____

Words to know

icicle: a pointed spike of ice hanging down
melts: turns from ice or snow into water
freeze: to turn from water into ice
drip: to fall in small drops

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How an Icicle Grows

Square group

On a winter day, you may notice sharp, clear spikes of ice dangling from the edge of a roof. These are called icicles, and each one is built a single drop at a time.

The process begins with snow lying on the roof. When the sun shines, it warms the snow slightly, and some of it melts into water. The water trickles down toward the edge of the roof.

At the edge, the water gathers into a drop that hangs there. Because the air is still cold, the drop begins to freeze, forming a little ice. Then another drop slides down and freezes on top of that ice.

Drip after drip, the ice stretches longer and longer, until it narrows into a point at the bottom.

Although icicles look beautiful, they can be quite heavy, and they may fall without any warning. It is wise to stay out from under them.

Questions

1. Where do icicles hang?

_____

_____

2. What warms the snow on the roof so that it melts?

_____

_____

3. Why does the drop of water at the edge begin to freeze?

_____

_____

4. What shape does the bottom of an icicle make?

_____

_____

5. Why is it wise to stay out from under an icicle?

_____

_____

Words to know

icicle: a pointed spike of ice hanging down
melts: turns from ice or snow into water
freeze: to turn from water into ice
drip: to fall in small drops

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: How an Icicle Grows

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: How an Icicle Grows

Easier · 97 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0

1. From the edge of a roof.
2. The sun.
3. The air is cold.
4. A point.
5. It can be heavy and fall.

Triangle: How an Icicle Grows

This passage · 130 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.9

1. From the edge of a roof.
2. The sun.
3. The air is still cold.
4. A point.
5. It can be heavy and fall without warning.

Square: How an Icicle Grows

Harder · 151 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.8

1. From the edge of a roof.
2. The sun.
3. The air is still cold.
4. A point.
5. It can be heavy and may fall without warning.