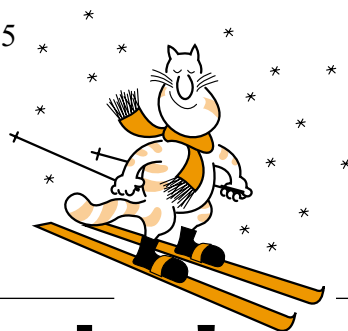


CAT TALES™

Winter 2005

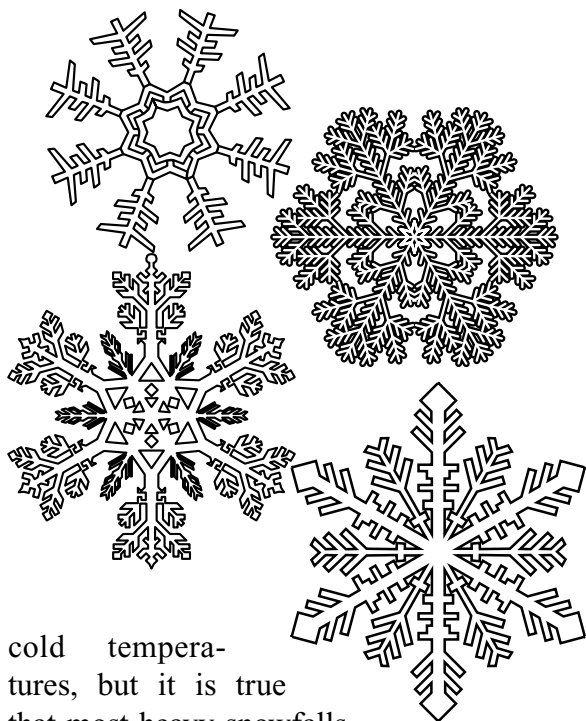


Snow – one of winter’s wonders!

Snow is a challenge for weather experts — very difficult to predict and surprisingly hard to measure once it has fallen — and it may be both the most reviled and eagerly anticipated of nature’s marvels in the changing seasons of our temperate climate.

Snow forms when the air temperature is at or below 0°C and there is a bit of moisture in the air. If the ground temperature is at or below freezing, the snow will fall to the ground. Because snow forms in the atmosphere, snow can still fall if the surface temperature is above freezing, as long as the air temperatures are below freezing.

Contrary to popular belief, it can never be “too cold to snow”. It can snow at incredibly



cold temperatures, but it is true that most heavy snowfalls happen when the air temperature near the ground is relatively warm, usually -9°C or warmer, since warm air can hold more water vapor.

Most snowflakes are less than 1 cm across, but if conditions are just right, irregular flakes up to 5 cm can form. Snowflakes are six-sided because they are formed of clumps of ice crystals, and the basic shape of the ice crystal is a hexagon.

Did you know?

- Snow *appears* white because it reflects most of the light that hits it. From a distance, snow can appear slightly blue because it absorbs more of the red light in the spectrum and reflects a little more of the blue.
- Fresh snow is an excellent insulator. Ten inches of fresh snow is about equal to a 15-cm layer of glass fibre insulation with an insulation R-value of R-18.

FAT CAT® JOKES

- Q. What did the snowwoman do when the snowman kissed her?
A. She gave him the cold shoulder!
- Q. What do snowmen wear on their heads?
A. Ice Caps!
- Q. Where do snowmen go to dance?
A. Snowballs!

- Q. How do snowmen travel?
A. By icicle!
- Q. What do you get if you cross a snowman with a shark?
A. Frost bite!



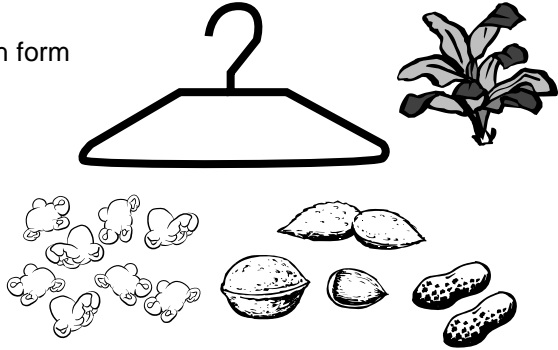
FAT CAT® Craft Page



Make a wreath that's for the birds!

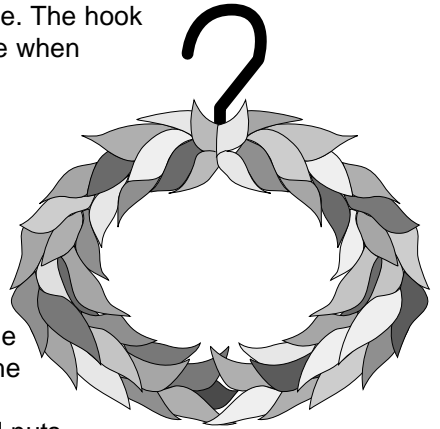
What you need:

- A wire coat hanger or raffia wreath form
- Evergreen trimmings
- Peanut butter
- Bird seed
- Dried fruits, raisins, cranberries
- Popcorn
- Nuts
- Pine cones
- Florist's wire
- Needle and thread



Make the wreath:

1. If you use the coat hanger, stretch it into a circle shape. The hook of the hanger is perfect to hang the wreath from a tree when you're done. If you use the raffia wreath, you can wrap a length of bright ribbon to tie it to a tree – just remember to leave the ends long enough to go around a branch.
2. Using the florist's wire, secure the evergreen trimmings to the wreath (see illustration). You may need an adult to help with this.
3. Loop florist wire around the base of the pine cones, leaving a long end to attach to wreath. Spread the pine cones with peanut butter, then roll in bird seed. Use the wire to attach them securely to the wreath.
4. Make short strings of popcorn, dried fruits, raisins and nuts. Five or six cm is perfect. Attach to wreath so they dangle.
5. Hang the wreath outside a window where you can watch the birds enjoying their treat!



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