

Wilson Bentley

by Guy Belleranti

Wilson Bentley was born in 1865, shortly before the end of the Civil War. He was to someday become known as the "Snowflake Man".



Bentley lived on a farm in Jericho, Vermont. Along with a brother, he was homeschooled by his mother, a former teacher. He began using a microscope for his studies. Soon he was studying the snow crystals

they formed.

At first, he tried to draw the snow crystals, but most of his drawings could not be reproduced. Bentley read about cameras and photography. His father thought the work was too difficult, but he convinced him to purchase a camera.

Access the largest collection of worksheets for just **\$19.95** per year!

etches. However, none of the drawings that he saw. Then, Bentley purchased a microscope. His father's mother eventually convinced him to purchase a camera.

Learning by trial and error, Bentley spent many Vermont winter days attempting to photograph snow crystals. He used plates with his bulky camera and microscope. On his 23rd birthday, he achieved success, recording the first photomicrograph ever of a snow crystal.

Members, please log in to download this worksheet.

[Log in](#)

Not a member? Please sign up to gain complete access.

[Sign up](#)

www.mathworksheets4kids.com

mont winter days attempting to photograph snow crystals. He used plates with his bulky camera and microscope. On his 23rd birthday, he achieved success, recording the first photomicrograph ever of a snow crystal.

Over the next 13 years, Bentley took hundreds of additional photomicrographs. He saw that the shapes and sizes of the crystals varied and that every snowflake was different. He began filling notebooks with detailed weather observations. He also recorded information on his photographic techniques. Finally, in 1898, he had his first of many articles on snow crystals published.

Name : _____

During this time he was also busy running the family farm. His father had passed away, and his mother was now an invalid. Many thought he was kind of a strange man, a man who loved nature and music. Indeed, he was a talented musician. He played several instruments including piano, organ, clarinet and cornet. And he did love nature. In fact, it is said he often imitated the sounds of birds and other animals on his violin.

But it was his interest in snow crystals and other weather-related subjects that consumed him most. His "hobby" included learning about water in all its forms from

raindrops and dew to snow. During the winter months he studied raindrops and their varying sizes.

He used a shallow pan of wheat flour to falling rain for his experiments. In addition, each raindrop was placed on a small piece of paper. When the raindrop dried he found the splash patterns. In addition, each raindrop was placed on a small piece of paper. When the raindrop dried he found the splash patterns.

pellet dried he found the splash patterns. In addition, each raindrop was placed on a small piece of paper. When the raindrop dried he found the splash patterns. In addition, each raindrop was placed on a small piece of paper. When the raindrop dried he found the splash patterns.

Still, it was years before Bentley's abilities and interests were widely known. In 1909, his photograph of a snow crystal was published in Scientific American, and he gained their respect.

In 1920, Bentley's photograph of a snow crystal was published in the Philosophical Magazine. And in 1931, shortly before his death, his book "Snow Crystals" was published. In it were

photographers accepted publications such as gained their respect. In 1920, Bentley's photograph of a snow crystal was published in the Philosophical Magazine. And in 1931, shortly before his death, his book "Snow Crystals" was published. In it were

PREVIEW

Access the largest collection of worksheets for just **\$19.95** per year!

Members, please log in to download this worksheet. **Log in**

Not a member? Please sign up to gain complete access. **Sign up**

www.mathworksheets4kids.com

-Originally purchased by EdGate Total Reader in 2006 for use in a Lexile-based reading assessment program.

Wilson Bentley

- 1) Which answer contradicts the information given in the passage?
- a) In order to best capture the real beauty of snowflakes, Bentley took to photographing snowflakes.
 - b) It didn't take long for scientists and professional photographers to accept Bentley's paintings and abilities.
 - c) Apart from being a photographer, Bentley played several musical instruments including piano.
 - d) Bentley's father was a professional photographer in the 19th century.

2) Explain how right

Man".

PREVIEW

Access the largest collection of worksheets for just **\$19.95** per year!

Members, please log in to download this worksheet. **Log in**

Not a member? Please sign up to gain complete access. **Sign up**

www.mathworksheets4kids.com

3) Wilson Bentley was very keen about the beauty and intricacies of what he wanted to capture, and in fact, this was the reason why he stopped sketching them and started capturing them in photographs. Why might artists, and not just painters for that matter, give great importance to such details?

Name : _____

Wilson Bentley

4) How did Bentley
he honored with

entists and what was

PREVIEW

Access the largest collection of
worksheets for just **\$19.95** per year!

Members, please
log in to
download this
worksheet.
Log in

Not a member?
Please sign up to
gain complete
access.
Sign up

www.mathworksheets4kids.com

5) Write a paragraph about your favorite hobby. Explain how often you practice this hobby and what aspects of it specially intrigue you. Is this something you wish to turn into a career?

Name : _____

Wilson Bentley

- 1) Which answer contradicts the information given in the passage?
- a) In order to best capture the real beauty of snowflakes, Bentley took to photographing snowflakes.
 - b) It didn't take long for scientists and professional photographers to accept Bentley's paintings and abilities.
 - c) Apart from being a photographer, Bentley played several musical instruments including piano.
 - d) Bentley's fame was limited to his own era.

2) Explain how right

There couldn't

who dedicate

intricacies of s

instrument to

himself day in

snow flake, bu

beauties in hi

magazines lik

PREVIEW

Access the largest collection of worksheets for just **\$19.95** per year!

Members, please log in to download this worksheet.

Log in

Not a member? Please sign up to gain complete access.

Sign up

www.mathworksheets4kids.com

Man".

n Bentley, a man

ng the beauty and

not just an

on which consumed

raphs of a

great weather

ned in reputed

rican.

- 3) Wilson Bentley was very keen about the beauty and intricacies of what he wanted to capture, and in fact, this was the reason why he stopped sketching them and started capturing them in photographs. Why might artists, and not just painters for that matter, give great importance to such details?

Art is an undying thirst for perfection. Seldom is an artist pleased with their

work unless they find the intricate elements of perfect craftsmanship and

a near-ideal translation of what they have been madly chasing, superbly

Name : _____

Wilson Bentley

expressing itself through the medium they have chosen. Pretty much like

Wilson Bentley, who was not content with the sketches of snowflakes and

instead caught their beauty in photographs, every painter and every artist

craves to achieve success in their works. Only when they find an artistic

work exemplary, will they consider themselves successful.

4) How did Bentley
he honored with

It took years k

accepted Ben

in publication

Popular Scien

a fellow of the

"Snow Crysta

most of them

PREVIEW

Access the largest collection of
worksheets for just **\$19.95** per year!

Members, please
log in to
download this
worksheet.

Log in

Not a member?
Please sign up to
gain complete
access.

Sign up

www.mathworksheets4kids.com

entists and what was

otographers

s work appeared

ographic and

ey was named

s book

photographs,

5) Write a paragraph about your favorite hobby. Explain how often you practice this hobby and what aspects of it specially intrigue you. Is this something you wish to turn into a career?

Answers may vary.