

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

they formed.

At first, he tried to draw what he saw. But many 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.

PREVIEW
Gain complete access to the largest collection of worksheets in all subjects!

Members, please log in to download this worksheet.

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

etches. However, none of them were what he saw. Then, in 1873, he purchased a microscope. His father thought the work was too difficult, but his mother eventually convinced him to purchase a camera.

During the Vermont winter days, Bentley would place plates with his bulky camera and microscope on the windowsill. On his 13th birthday, he

Learning by trial and error, Bentley eventually achieved success, recording the first photomicrograph ever of a snow crystal.

www.mathworksheets4kids.com

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 clouds and fog. In 1863, he studied raindrops and their varying sizes. He used a fine sieve to separate wheat flour to falling rain for study. In addition, each raindrop on a flour pellet dried he found new information. He found new information about raindrops.

Still, it was years before Bentley's abilities and work were recognized. In 1873, Scientific American, published his work.

In 1920, Bentley's work was included in a book. In 1931, shortly before he died, his work was published. In it were

PREVIEW

Gain complete access to the largest collection of worksheets in all subjects!

Members, please log in to download this worksheet.

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

www.mathworksheets4kids.com

he studied raindrops and their varying sizes. He used a fine sieve to separate wheat flour to falling rain for study. In addition, each raindrop on a flour pellet. When the raindrop dried he found new information.

Photographers accepted his work and his publications such as "Snow Crystals" gained their respect.

Microscopical Society. And "Snow Crystals" was published. In it were

-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

Gain complete access to the largest collection of worksheets in all subjects!

Members, please log in to download this worksheet.

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

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

Gain complete access to the largest
collection of worksheets in all subjects!

Members, please
log in to
download this
worksheet.

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

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?
