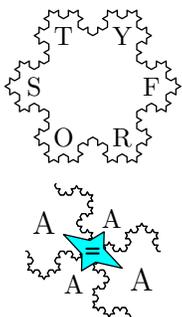


Snowball

zifyoip.com/snowball

It's a snowy winter day, and I am walking through a park in my neighborhood. Big, wet snowflakes are floating down from the sky. Suddenly a snowball flies past my head. I turn around and see one of the neighborhood kids, grinning, holding a second snowball—but not for long! He throws it at me, and this time he scores a hit, right on the front of my coat. I must defend myself! I bend down to scoop up some snow, and I hear the kid squeal and run away. By the time I have made a perfect snowball, the kid is nowhere in sight. Can you help me? Where is he hiding?

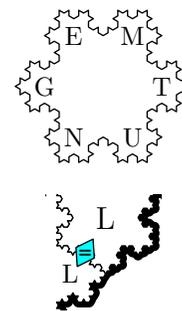


Fill in the snowball on the following page. Each numbered snowflake should contain a six-letter answer, indicated by the corresponding clue below. The letters of the answer go in order around the six main points of the snowflake, either clockwise (like FROSTY to the left) or counterclockwise (like NUTMEG to the right). It's up to you to determine where the answer should start and which direction it should go.

The snowball also contains some ice crystals that require adjacent letters to be the same (as indicated by the = sign). Most crystals join four snowflakes, as shown to the left; all four touching points must contain the same letter. Some smaller crystals, around the perimeter of the snowball, join only two snowflakes, as shown to the right.

The crystals will help you fill in the snowball—when you have filled in one snowflake, you will get some letters for surrounding flakes. But the crystals help with only three of the six points of the small snowflakes. That's not fair! So for the small snowflakes, the three letters in the points without crystals are given after the clue in alphabetical order (not necessarily the order they come in the answer).

[The snowball picture is based on a tessellation of a fractal called the Koch snowflake.]



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|--|--|--|
| 1 One under the mistletoe, perhaps [EKS] | 17 Word in many versions of the Golden Rule [HOR] | 38 Like some old floorboards [ARY] |
| 2 Band around a present | 18 One of the two official languages of Afghanistan [AHO] | 39 Second-named reindeer in <i>A Visit from St. Nicholas</i> [DEN] |
| 3 Metal used to make bells [ENR] | 19 Coats with hoods | 40 Photographs or illustrations |
| 4 Places to buy holiday gifts [EOS] | 20 Unit of popcorn [ELN] | 41 Too many to count (or, technically, ten thousand) [DIY] |
| 5 Way down to the first floor, easier than the chimney | 21 Potato pancakes eaten during Hanukkah [AKS] | 42 Grain used to make beer [ALY] |
| 6 Welcome, as the new year (2 wds.) [GIN] | 22 Hotel chain | 43 Neckwear to go with a tuxedo (2 wds.) |
| 7 Like the 40 rings my true love gave to me [EGL] | 23 Gratitude [AKT] | 44 What eating collard greens, black-eyed peas, and cornbread on New Year's Day is supposed to bring, in the Southern U.S. [EHL] |
| 8 It includes Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces | 24 Pages of many calendars [HMN] | 45 Wild dog of Africa and Eurasia [ACJ] |
| 9 One of nine on a Hanukkah menorah [HNR] | 25 Religious leader | 46 Bring down in a bowl game |
| 10 It may need to be plowed after a snowstorm | 26 One in a tent [CEM] | 47 Making gingerbread or snickerdoodles, say [BKN] |
| 11 Christianity, Hinduism, and Judaism, for example [FHI] | 27 Former name of Utqiagvik, Alaska, the U.S. city nearest to the North Pole [BOR] | 48 Intelligence |
| 12 Companion of a rubber stamp (2 wds.) [DNP] | 28 Season for a snowball fight | 49 Spend some time in a bookshop, perhaps [ERW] |
| 13 Set burning | 29 Elaborately decorated [AER] | 50 Like many traditional toys [DNO] |
| 14 Beethoven's first name [GUW] | 30 With formal dignity [LMS] | 51 Scratched, as a cat might |
| 15 Like all Hanukkah candles on Zot Hanukkah, all Advent candles on Christmas Eve, or all Kwanzaa candles on January 1 [GLT] | 31 Bleep | 52 Favorite food of reindeer, for which they dig in the snow [HIN] |
| 16 Bad ones might be broken in the new year | 32 Sea-Doo alternative (2 wds.) [JKT] | 53 Emulates Bob Ross [IPT] |
| | 33 First name of a January honoree [ANT] | 54 Texas city on the Rio Grande (2 wds.) |
| | 34 Heat up again | 55 Closed securely [AES] |
| | 35 Having more snow, as a landscape [HRT] | |
| | 36 Part of a kid's sledding outfit [EMT] | |
| | 37 Hire (2 wds.) | |

