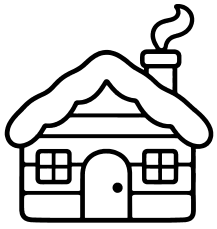
Name _____ Date _____

Snowflake Bentley

Read about Wilson Bentley. Then answer the questions.

A Boy Who Loved Snow



Wilson Bentley was born in 1865 on a farm in Jericho, Vermont. Its winters are long and snowy.

Wilson's mother had been a teacher, and she taught him at home. When he was 15, she gave him an old **microscope**. A microscope makes tiny things look much bigger.

He looked at snowflakes under it. Each one was a tiny **crystal** of ice with six sides, and each one looked different. He tried to draw them, but they melted before he could finish.

---

1. Wilson Bentley grew up ____

by the sea in a big city on a farm in Vermont

2. A microscope ____

makes tiny things look bigger

tells how cold it is

keeps snow from melting

3. Wilson's drawings were hard to finish because the snowflakes melted. **true** **false**

4. What did Wilson see when he looked at snowflakes under the microscope?

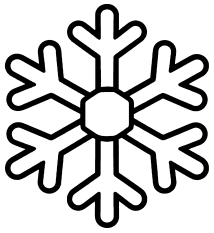
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Name _____ Date _____

Snowflake Bentley

Read how Wilson took his first photograph. Then answer.

The First Snowflake Photograph



Wilson wondered if he could take a **photograph** of a snowflake through a microscope. When he was 17, his parents bought him a special camera that could do just that. It cost a lot of money for a farm family.

Taking the picture was hard. Wilson worked out in the cold, so the snowflakes would not melt. He caught them on a black tray, so they would be easy to see. Then he gently moved one onto a glass slide.

He tried again and again for two winters. At last, on January 15, 1885, he took the first photograph of a single snowflake. He was 19 years old.

---

1. Wilson worked out in the cold so that ____

- he could see the stars
- his camera stayed clean
- the snowflakes would not melt

2. He caught the snowflakes on a tray that was ____ **red** **white** **black**

3. Wilson took his first snowflake photograph on his first try. **true** **false**

4. Why do you think Wilson caught the snowflakes on something black?

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Name _____ Date _____

Snowflake Bentley

Read how a snowflake grows. Then answer the questions.

Why Six Sides?

Every snowflake starts high up in a cloud. There, a tiny drop of very cold water freezes onto a speck of dust or **pollen**. It becomes a small crystal of ice.



Water freezes in a six-sided pattern, so the crystal has six sides. As it falls, more water from the air freezes onto it. Six arms grow out from its six corners.

How the arms grow depends on the air around them. Is it very cold or just a little cold? Is the air wet or dry? Each snowflake falls its own way through the cloud, so each one grows a little differently.

---

1. A snowflake starts when a tiny drop of water freezes onto ____

a bird's feather a raindrop a speck of dust or pollen

2. A snowflake has ____ arms. **six** **five** **four**

3. Every snowflake grows in exactly the same way. **true** **false**

4. Why does each snowflake look a little different?

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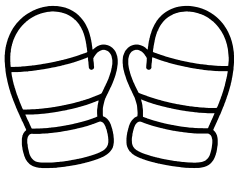
Name _____ Date _____

Snowflake Bentley

Read about Bentley's life's work. Then answer.

Snowflake Bentley

Wilson Bentley photographed snowflakes for the rest of his life, more than 40 years. He made pictures of more than 5,000 of them. He said he never found two that were alike. People called him "Snowflake" Bentley.



Bentley shared his photographs with scientists, schools and artists. In 1931, a book of more than 2,000 of them came out, called Snow Crystals. A few weeks later, in December 1931, Bentley died.

Today, museums keep his photographs, and people still study them.

---

1. Bentley made pictures of more than ____ snowflakes. **50** **500** **5,000**

2. Bentley said he found many snowflakes that were exactly alike. **true** **false**

3. His book of 1931 was called ____

Ice and Rain Snow Crystals Snow Days

4. Why do you think Bentley kept photographing snowflakes for so many years?

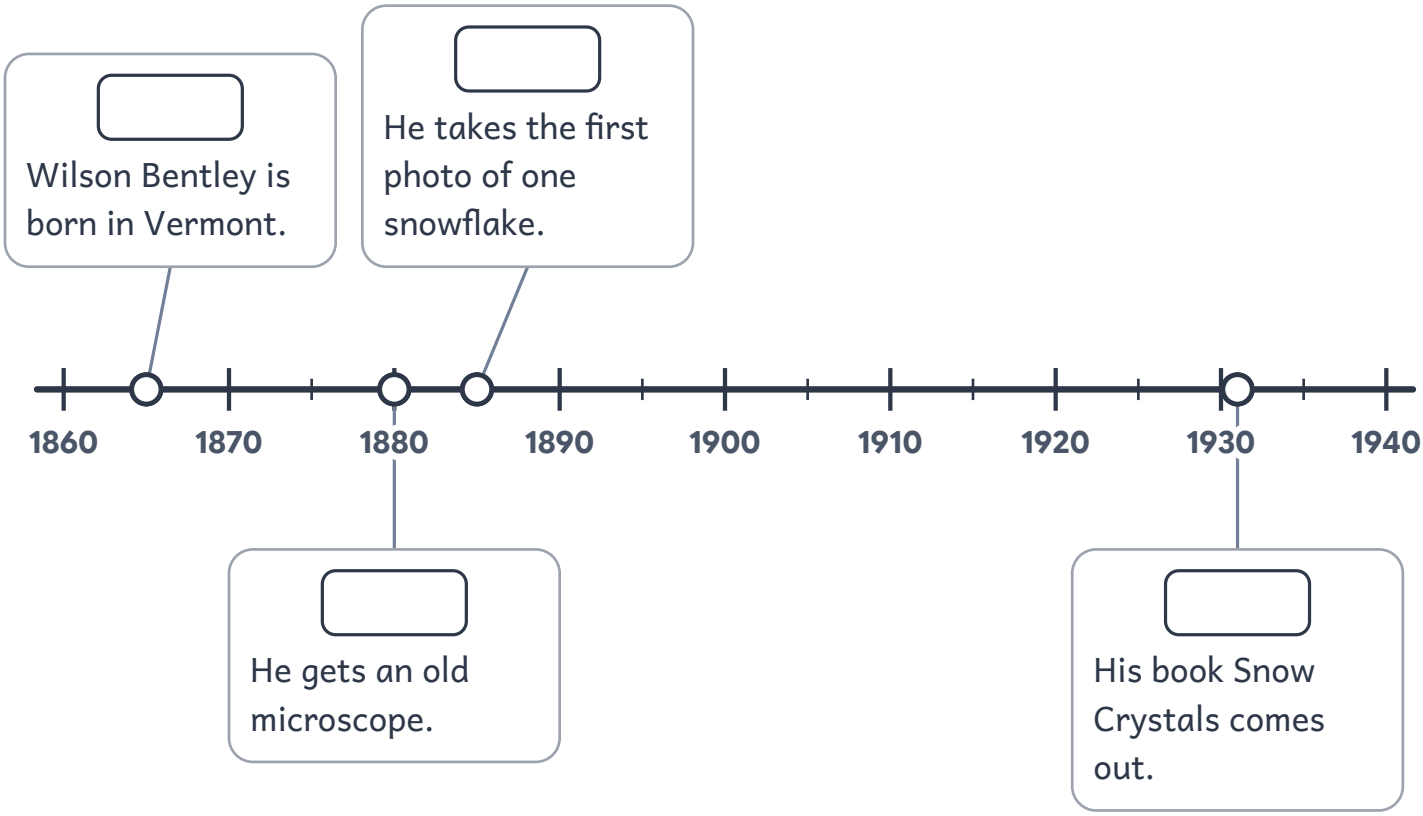
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Name _____ Date _____

Snowflake Bentley

Write the year of each event. Then answer the questions.

Years: **1865** **1880** **1885** **1931**



1. How many years after his first snowflake photograph did his book come out? _____ years

2. How many years after he was born did Wilson get his microscope? _____ years

3. How many years after he was born did his book come out? _____ years

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Name _____ Date _____



Snowflake Bentley

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

microscope	●	● a solid with flat sides in a pattern, like a tiny piece of ice
photograph	●	● a tool that makes tiny things look much bigger
crystal	●	● the same as each other
pollen	●	● a picture taken with a camera
melt	●	● a fine dust made by flowers
alike	●	● to change from a solid to a liquid

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Name _____ Date _____

Snowflake Bentley

Write in full sentences. Give details and reasons.

Be a scientist. Bentley spent his life looking closely at one thing he loved. What would you like to study closely for a long time? Why?



Look closely. Choose something small you can look at, like a leaf, a shell or a coin. Describe it with details: its shape, size, color and pattern.

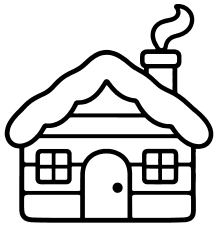
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2. A microscope ____

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tells how cold it is

keeps snow from melting

3. Wilson's drawings were hard to finish because the snowflakes melted.

true **false**

4. What did Wilson see when he looked at snowflakes under the microscope?

Each snowflake was a tiny ice crystal with six sides, and each one looked different.

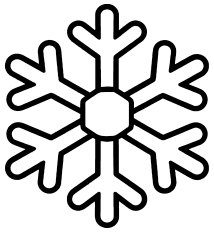
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1. Wilson worked out in the cold so that ____

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his camera stayed clean

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2. He caught the snowflakes on a tray that was ____ **red** **white** **black**

3. Wilson took his first snowflake photograph on his first try. **true** **false**

4. Why do you think Wilson caught the snowflakes on something black?

White snowflakes are easy to see against black.

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Snowflake Bentley

Read how a snowflake grows. Then answer the questions.

Why Six Sides?

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---

1. A snowflake starts when a tiny drop of water freezes onto ____

a bird's feather a raindrop **a speck of dust or pollen**

2. A snowflake has ____ arms. **six** **five** **four**

3. Every snowflake grows in exactly the same way. **true** **false**

4. Why does each snowflake look a little different?

Each one falls its own way through the cloud, where the air is colder or warmer, wetter or drier.

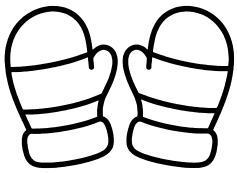
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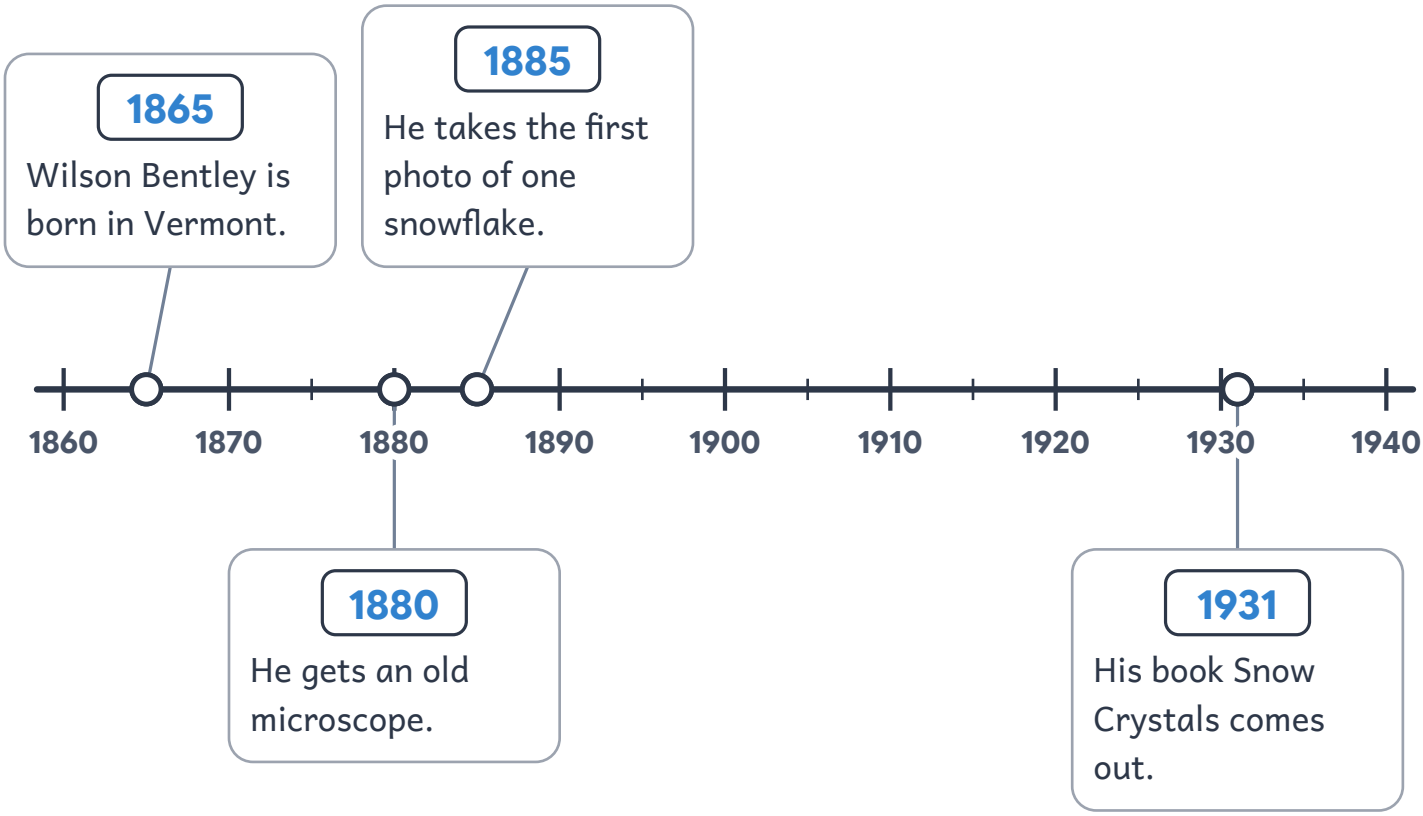
He loved snow, and every snowflake he found was new and different.

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Snowflake Bentley

Write the year of each event. Then answer the questions.

Years: **1865** **1880** **1885** **1931**



1. How many years after his first snowflake photograph did his book come out? **46** years

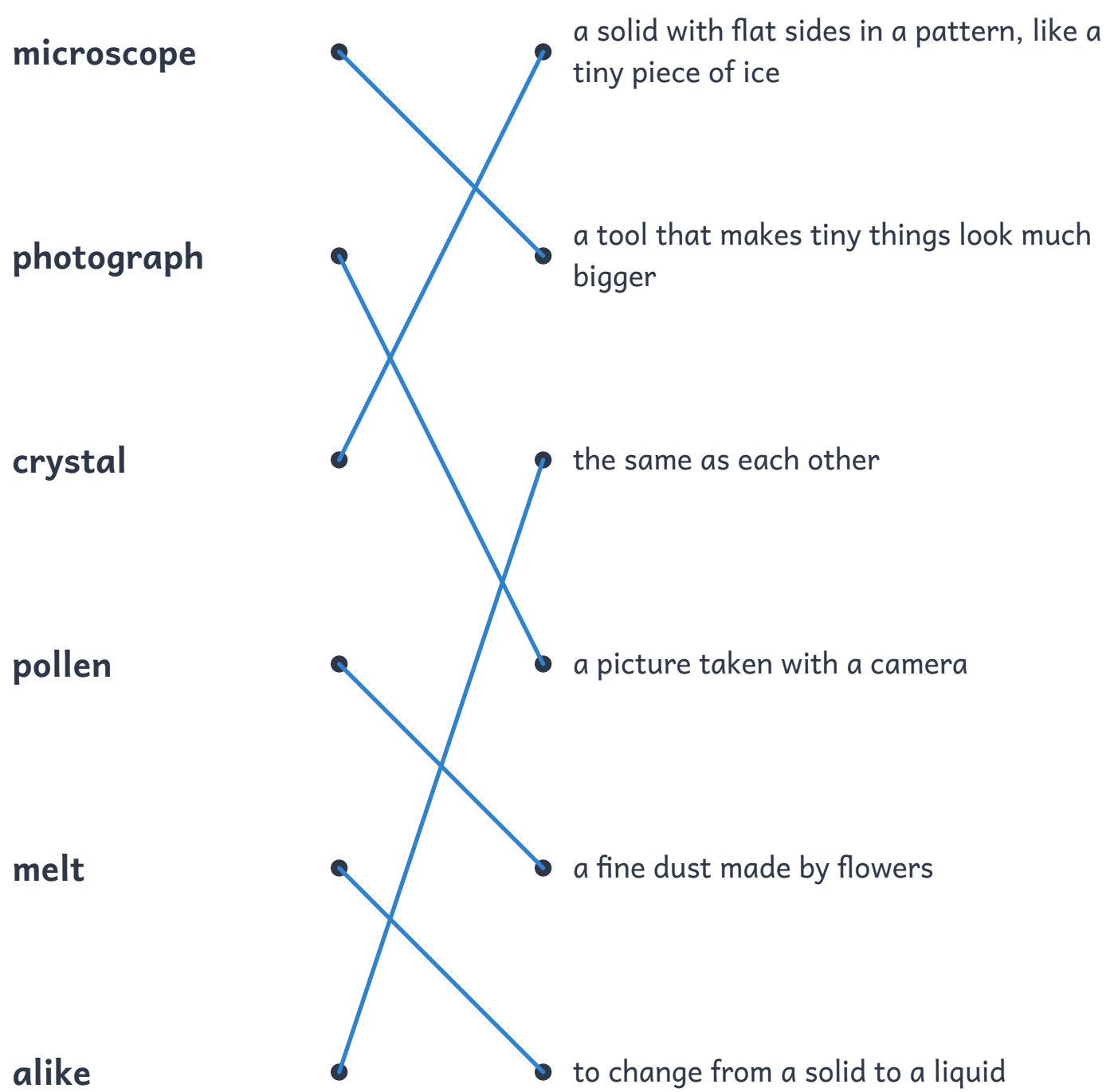
2. How many years after he was born did Wilson get his microscope? **15** years

3. How many years after he was born did his book come out? **66** years

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Snowflake Bentley

Draw a line from each word to what it means.



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