



## Sequencing

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### Reading Comprehension Worksheet

#### Practice

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**Sequencing** is putting things in order, *from first to last*.

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Read about what causes snow, paying attention to the **sequence** of events, from *first to last*.

#### What Causes Snow?

We know that it is not just the cold that causes it to snow. There are many cold wintery days without snow. And sometimes even when the temperature is below freezing we have rain instead of snow. So what causes snow?

Snow starts the same way that rainstorms start. A large mass of warm air and a large mass of cold air come together high above the earth. Sometimes the warm air is stronger, and it pushes the cold air up. Then we have warmer weather on the ground. Other times the cold air is stronger and it pushes the warm air up. Then we have colder weather on the ground. And when that happens, the clouds in the warm air get colder and colder as they are pushed higher and higher. This causes something very interesting to happen.

Clouds are made when water vapor in the air is warmed. As it cools, the water vapor changes into droplets of water so tiny that they are invisible, but we can easily see the cloud that they form. In warm air, when enough of these tiny droplets collect in a cloud they gather into larger drops that are heavy enough to fall as rain. But when a warm cloud gets pushed up into very cold air, the water vapor changes directly into ice, instead of changing into water first. (The opposite process would be heating an ice cube so hot and fast that it turned into

water vapor without turning into water first!) When enough of these tiny pieces of ice are formed, they gather into the form of snowflakes that become heavy enough to fall to the ground.

If the air under the snow cloud is cold enough, the snowflakes fall all the way to the ground. If the air is both cold and dry, the snowflakes fall as the small powdery flakes that don't stick together. If the air is cold and damp, the snowflakes begin to melt around the edges and stick together as they fall. These snowflakes fall to the ground as large flakes that stick together easily, and are ideal for making a snowman!

1. Write the numbers 1 through 6 in the boxes beside the events to show the sequence of what happens to cause snow, from *first to last*.

1-6?

Tiny bits of ice in a cloud gather together into snowflakes.	
The cold air pushes the warm air up.	
If the air that the snowflakes fall through is warm enough, the snowflakes fall all the way to the ground.	
A large mass of warm air and a large mass of cold air come together high above the earth.	
The snowflakes get heavy enough to fall toward the ground.	
Water vapor in the clouds turns directly into tiny bits of ice.	

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2. What happens when the air that the snowflakes fall through is warm enough to turn ice into water?

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## Answer Key

1. 4, 2, 6, 1, 5, 3
2. Accept any reasonable answer, such as, the snow turns into sleet, freezing rain, or rain.