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## Snow Words

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Using your recorded data, plot the change in temperature per minute on a graph, with time on the horizontal axis and temperature change on the vertical axis. Do this for each beaker. What conclusion can be reached concerning surface-to-volume ratios and heat loss? Of what importance is this to winter animal life?

6. Measure the temperature of a snow drift at different levels. Measure the temperature of soil beneath snow cover and in exposed areas. Of what significance is this to plant and animal life?

### Conclusion

Due to various environmental and physical factors, the properties of snow cover is constantly changing. With respect to plant and animal life the most important snow characteristics concern hardness and insulative properties. Each species of winter animal has evolved adaptations to cope with the varying properties of snow cover. In addition to natural forces within the environment, man's activities can greatly influence the properties of snow cover. Through recreational activities, man often affects the winter habitats essential for the survival of many forms of winter wildlife.

### References

- Pruit, W.O. Animals in the snow. *Scientific American*. 202(1):60-68.  
Scholander, P.F. 1957. The wonderful net. *Scientific American*. 196(4):97-107.

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### Snow Words

Eskimos have at least eleven different words for snow. They need to know the exact texture, consistency, wind velocity and wetness associated with snow for their survival.

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### Westinghouse Science Talent Search

Those teachers desiring information on the Westinghouse Science Talent Search should contact Dr. Gary Downs, Director, Department of Education, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50010.

Last year's winner from Iowa was Lance Johnson of Spirit Lake. His topic of inquiry was the *Fracture Mechanics of a Monofilament Whip Operated in a Rotary Cutting Mode*.