



Created by: Christina Smart, Triad Local Middle School

Grade level: 7

Primary Source Citation: Wilson Bentley Images of Snowflakes, 1885-1931, "Snowflake Bentley Museum," Jericho Historical Society, <http://www.snowflakebentley.com>.

Annotation: These photographs of "Snowflake" Bentley's work were used as a pre-reading exercise to his biography. We then compared Bentley's pictures to [Patricia Rasmussen's](http://www.amazon.com/Snowflake-Winters-Secret-Beauty/dp/1841072532) <http://www.amazon.com/Snowflake-Winters-Secret-Beauty/dp/1841072532> work in the same field.

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the photographs while answering the questions below in order. The questions are designed to guide students into a deeper analysis of the source and sharpen associated cognitive skills.

Level I: Description

1. Describe what you see.
2. In your opinion what are these objects?
3. Do you think these are photographs or drawings? Why? Explain.

Level II: Interpretation

1. Compare/contrast these snowflakes with everyday items.
2. Why do you think there are no 2 snowflakes that are alike?
3. Explain why you think the snowflakes develop so differently.

Level III: Analysis

1. Explain the process and equipment you might need to take these photographs.
2. Do you think these photographs are an art form or science? Can it be both? Explain your reaction.
3. How do you feel the technology used for this activity in 1885 would have changed over the years to 2010?