

These past few weeks, we have had our fair share of winter weather! Now, I do not like those -40C temperatures, but overall, I do not mind winter. I like to see the different seasons outside, and really enjoy the beauty each season has to offer us. It is nice to go for a walk outside when it is snowing gently. Sometimes, the snowflakes look as light as air. Other time, the snow looks much heavier. I think this week we should investigate how dense the snow is. Let's get started!

***Remember to ask an adult before doing this experiment.**

Materials

- snow
- small clear plastic ruler
- clear plastic measuring cup or container
- book to record your results
- pencil

Procedure

1. Put on your hat, mittens, coat and boots and go collect some snow!
2. Fill the container with FRESH, undisturbed snow.
3. Using your ruler, level off the edge of the container so it is nice and straight and you can measure a straight line with the snow.
4. Carefully slide your ruler into the snow and measure how much snow you have.
5. Record the day, location and your results.
6. Take the container inside and place on a sturdy counter.
7. Allow the snow to melt.
8. Using the ruler, measure how much water you have in the container.
9. Record your results.
10. Repeat this experiment by collecting snow in a different location and/or on a different day.
11. Record the day, location and your results.
12. Compare your results.
13. What did you find?

Explanation

As you try this experiment several times with various samples, you may have noticed a difference. This is because not all snow is exactly the same. Some snow is very dense. This means that it contains a great deal of water. Other samples of snow may have a very low density.

There are many factors that may affect the density of the snow. These may include temperature, air pressure, the storm, altitude, or geographical location just to name a few. I am sure that you also noticed that it takes a great deal of snow just to get a little bit of water!

Patty Rooks, Senior Science Consultant

PRAXIS, "Making Science Fun". Contact Praxis at praxis@praxismh.ca, www.praxismh.ca, Tweet or follow us @PraxisMedHat, or friend us on Facebook. Address: c/o 200 7th Street S.W., Medicine Hat, AB, T1A 4K1 Phone: 403-527-5365, Fax: 403-527-6570.