

#INSIGHT

Facts About Snowflakes

Snowflakes have always fascinated the math and science world



Snowfall is beautiful and magnificent and snow is formed by water droplets. Snowflakes have always fascinated the math and science world. They are just such neat little structures with so many varieties. However, some scientists and mathematicians have devoted their lives to studying this natural phenomenon. Learn a few interesting snowflake facts.

Snowflakes Are Made of Ice Crystals

Snowflakes are made up of ice crystals. They form in the sky around bits of dirt. Depending on where they go in the atmosphere, snowflakes can fall to the ground as single ice crystals or they can be made of 200 or more crystals.

The size they take and how they grow is determined by temperature and humidity. So, when it's really cold, the designs are simple.

That's bigger than a frisbee!

Snowflakes Have Symmetry

Mathematicians and scientists alike have always been fascinated with the formation of snowflakes. Mathematicians like snowflakes because they are a wonderful example of symmetry in nature. Due to the way they are structured, you could fold a snowflake in half, and the two sides would nearly match. That's why you always create a paper snowflake by folding the paper first.

Hasimara, which abutted the Teesta and Torsa rivers, had extremely fertile soil (anything would grow), if someone just had the inclination to scatter a few seeds on the ground. The airfield itself underwent major expansion,

Over a period of time, bushes /

unique. But, when you think of snowflake decorations, you are typically thinking of stellar dendrites. These snowflakes have six points and lots of unique patterns. They are, by far, the most popular snowflake, you'll come across on the winter.

Snowflakes Can Get Big

Most snowflakes aren't giant. They are typically between .02 and .15 inches wide. However, snowflakes can get pretty big. In fact, the Guinness World Record holder for the largest snowflake was a whopping 15 inches wide. It was measured in January 1887 in Montana. That's bigger than a frisbee!

On one such occasion, two officers and their wives were to be dropped back into the Service Vehicle, a Jonga. This was a vehicle designed by Nissan and produced for the Indian Army from 1965 to 1999. Jonga was an acronym for Jabalpur Ordnance And Gun Carrriage Assembly. Over 20,000 Jongs were in service with the Indian Army, with over 2000 being sold to the Governments of Kerala and Jammu & Kashmir. Also, one Jonga was sold to Mahendra Singh Dhoni. This vehicle, while conveying the officers and wives, broke down on the loop taxi track. The officers trudged back home, as did the driver to his home, in the opposite direction. The next day, when the ATC officer did his inspection to declare the airfield fit for flying, he spotted the Jonga on the taxi track and ordered it pushed to the side. So, it was, and the Jonga lay forgotten.

Hasimara, who advised that the Jonga be pushed further into the growth. This was done promptly. Out of sight, out of mind, Balbir was awarded a bottle of rum for his brilliant consultancy. Quite possibly, the Jonga is still there, hidden in the thicket of Hasimara, more than half a century later.

Each Snowflake Is Unique

You might have heard that snowflakes are like fingerprints, and every one of them is unique. Well, it's true. Each snowflake takes a different path from the sky to the ground. So, each one is formed in a unique pattern that makes it one-of-a-kind. However, scientists have been able to make twin snowflakes in controlled conditions, so it is possible.

Snow and Snowflakes Hold Most of the Fresh Water on Earth

Scientists have found that a lot of the fresh water around the world is in the form of snow. In fact, Antarctica holds about 80 percent of the world's fresh water in the form of ice and snow.

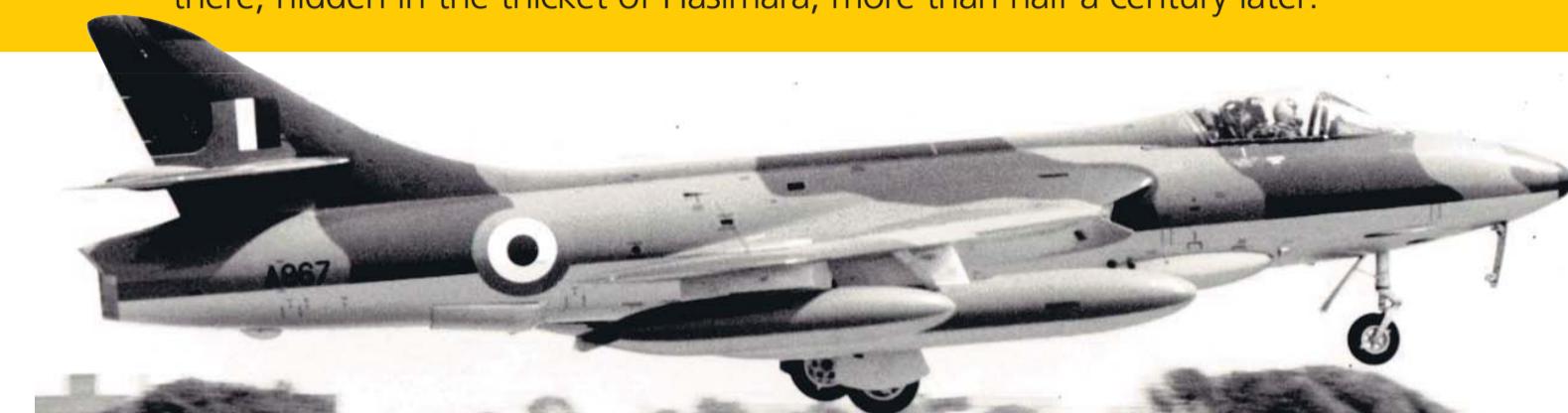
Most Popular Snowflake Shape: Stellar Dendrite

Most snowflakes are pretty



THE JONGA, THE TANK AND THE TRAIN

Being too intelligent, and wanting to present a clean record to his superiors, he categorized the Jonga as Cat "E" (Beyond Economical Repair) and consigned to salvage. The problem now was – what to do with the Jonga which has surfaced suddenly, after more than a decade! It puzzled all the Commanders and was finally left to our tea Club Major Domo Balbir, who advised that the Jonga be pushed further into the growth. This was done promptly. Out of sight, out of mind. Balbir was awarded a bottle of rum for his brilliant consultancy. Quite possibly, the Jonga is still there, hidden in the thicket of Hasimara, more than half a century later.



THE "HOPE YOU DISAPPEAR OUT TO NOWHERE" JONGA

Hasimara is an Air Base in the East of India, almost on the border of Bengal and Assam. Being in the East, it also had the distinction of being a part of the Eastern Air Force, which, once upon a time was more of the "rowdy stepson" of its parent, the Indian Air Force. The pilots were a very boisterous lot, who, in the Hunter Aircraft, would deliver their weapons with pin-point accuracy. In the caste system of the Air Force, the ground attack pilots always considered themselves as the "upper caste", since they would be tasked to penetrate deep into enemy territory and deliver weapons. Lower in the caste system were the Air Defense boys, whose main job was to circle the Indian skies and look for enemy aircraft that may or may not appear, earning them the distinction of being "lower caste".

Hasimara, which abutted the Teesta and Torsa rivers, had extremely fertile soil (anything would grow), if someone just had the inclination to scatter a few seeds on the ground. The airfield itself underwent major expansion, prior to the 1971 war, as it was to play a key role in the liberation of Bangladesh. Hasimara Air Base had a large network of loopy taxi tracks and blast pens, which extended to a few kilometers, off the main runway. West of the main runway was the Officers' Mess, while to the east was the Married Officers' Accommodation. While attending a party in the Officers' Mess, the Married Officers found it convenient to drive through the loopy taxi tracks, which had thick growth on either side of the taxi track. It was at this time, that the Jonga was discovered. An investigation was launched into the mystery Jonga. It came to light that the Jonga was missing. The Indian Air Force arrived and wanted all the growth cleared for 50 yards on either side of the taxi track. 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