



# ICICLE INVESTIGATION

In cold winter weather, icicles often form on the eaves of houses. Why? When snow on a rooftop melts from the sun or warmth inside the house, water trickles down to the eaves. If the air is cold enough, the water drops freeze before they fall, forming icicles that grow longer as more water trickles down. Here's a chance to take a closer look at icicles and how they grow.



FLICKR USER SHEENAPHOTOGRAPHY

### Keep a Record!

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

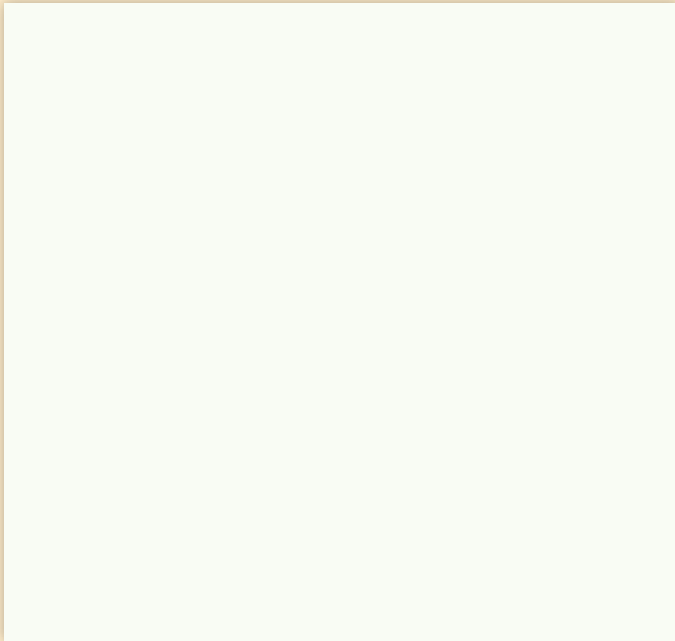
Location \_\_\_\_\_

Weather \_\_\_\_\_

### Helpful Things to Take Along

Hat, mittens, and other warm clothes

Ruler or measuring tape



Look for some icicles that you can easily see and reach. Choose one to draw and describe in words. What shape is it? Is it smooth or rippled? Can you see through the ice or is it opaque? Measure the icicle's length and width and add these measurements to your notes.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If possible, measure the same icicle again the next day and for several days after that. Is it growing larger? Write down your measurements here:

DAY 1: Length: \_\_\_\_\_ Width: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

DAY 2: Length: \_\_\_\_\_ Width: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

DAY 3: Length: \_\_\_\_\_ Width: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

DAY 4: Length: \_\_\_\_\_ Width: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

DAY 5: Length: \_\_\_\_\_ Width: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

