

Does Fake Snow Really Grow?

We all know that real snow is made of water – the frozen kind. While most of us love snow, the frozen stuff is hard to come by in warmer climates like Georgia. While it is possible to make real snow with machines, it has to be freezing cold outside to do this. Wouldn't it be amazing if we could make fake snow that could survive at warmer temperatures than the real stuff.



Luckily, scientists have learned how to make fake snow in a few different ways. The most popular type of fake snow is actually a **mixture** of two **materials**. The first material is an **engineered** polymer in the form of a solid powder. While this white powder looks very ordinary, it has an amazing ability to absorb water. It is so good at absorbing water that they call it a **superabsorber**.



While being able to absorb water like this is really cool, it doesn't mean that it makes high quality fake snow. For example, if I'm a movie director filming a winter scene in Atlanta, I need to know how well it substitutes for the real thing. In other words, does it have similar **physical attributes** like color, size of particles, smell, and texture?

In this STEM Challenge, your first task is to test the quality of the fake snow and determine if it is good enough to use. Your second task is to do something that you think will improve the quality of the fake snow. Good luck with this snowy STEM Challenge.