



**[CAUTION]** Roads can be icy! Drive slowly and be aware of poor visibility.

**3** Temperature of late Mar. (Avg. of 2012-25) max, **-2** °C min, **-9** °C

### Topic 01 Nature Information

#### All About Snowflakes

2026 marks the 90th anniversary of Dr. Ukichiro Nakaya's creation of the first artificial snowflake. This month, we highlight his achievements and outline how snowflakes are formed.

Ukichiro Nakaya (1900–1962)

Dr. Ukichiro Nakaya was a physicist from Ishikawa Prefecture and a pioneer of snow and ice research in Japan. Fascinated by their beauty, he documented over 3,000 photos of snowflakes before creating the world's first artificial snowflake in 1936, using rabbit fur to recreate a variety of different shapes.

He then developed the Nakaya Diagram, which shows the correlation of temperature and humidity to snowflake shapes.

He is remembered by his quote "snow is a letter sent from heaven," which reflects his scientific drive in uncovering the secrets of nature.

Sources  
S\*1: Nakaya Ukichiro Museum of Snow and Ice website  
<https://yukinokagakukan.kagashi-ss.com/>

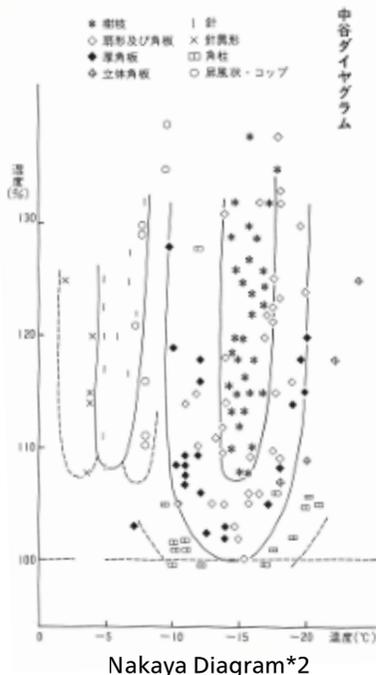
\*2: Snow Crystals, T. Kobayashi & Y. Furukawa, Asunaro Shobo  
\*3: The Story of Snow: M. Cassino & J. Nelson, Asunaro Shobo



Portrait of Dr. Nakaya\*1

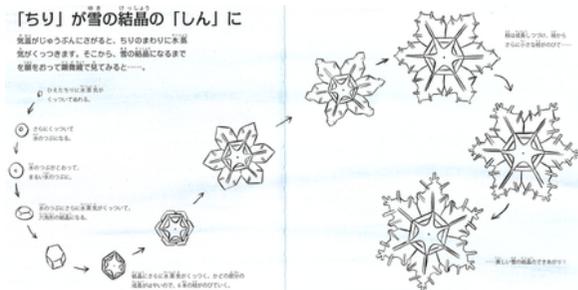


Photo of a Snowflake (taken at the Asahidake Visitor Center)



Nakaya Diagram\*2

Snowflakes form when water vapor in clouds attaches to tiny particles like dust and freezes into a hexagon, a property on how water molecules connect together. Their shapes change depending on their surroundings, such as becoming more branched in humid conditions. The property of water molecules creates the basic shape of each crystal.



Snowflake Formation\*3

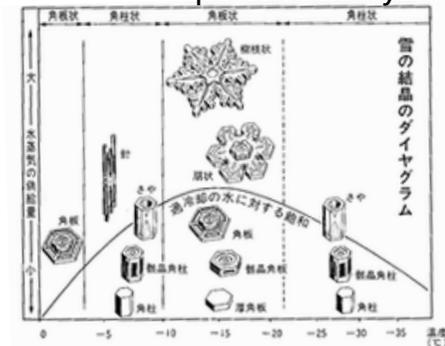


Diagram of Snowflakes\*2

Even with less snowfall due to warmer temperatures, you can still observe snowflakes in March. Try comparing the difference of snowflakes between fresh and settled snow. Give it a try at the Asahidake Visitor Center, or on your own time by catching snow on a black cloth and viewing it with a magnifying glass.

### Topic 02 Facility Information

**[Asahidake Ropeway service notice]**

All courses A, B, C, and D are open for skiing.  
Please contact Asahidake Ropeway for the latest information.

Snow is melting on the streets of central Higashikawa, but mountain roads are still slick, and warmer weather raises the risk of falling snow and avalanches. Please travel carefully when going to the foothills.

### Topic 03 Eco-tour & Event Information

**[Asahidake Onsen Nature Walk Dates (Japanese Language Only)]**

Rentals available (Rubber boots · Cross country skiing sets · Snowshoes · Poles [size adjustable available])

issuer: Asahidake Visitor Center staff YUKO SEJIYAMA  
〒071-1472 Asahidakeonsen Higashikawa, Hokkaido (9 : 00-17 : 00)  
CLOSE : 31st Dec—5th JAN. TEL:0166-97-2153 FAX:0166-97-2155  
<https://www.asahidake-vc-2291.jp/>  
Please check the latest information from our HP and FB

