



## The Three Essential SnowSchool Activities

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| About this guide       | 2 |
| Snowpack Depth         | 3 |
| Snow Water Equivalency | 4 |
| Watershed Map          | 5 |

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## About this guide

During the winter of 2012-13 the National Flagship SnowSchool Site conducted an evaluation in collaboration with Boise State University. For this evaluation over 500 elementary students completed pre and post SnowSchool science quizzes. The results showed that when students participated in three simple and specific experiential snow-science/water-cycle activities during the SnowSchool program, dramatic increases in student science learning occurred. These “three essential” activities are fun, help students learn through firsthand experience and only take about 45 minutes total to complete. A key aspect of these activities is that they reduce the amount of time kids spend disengaged from learning due to unnecessary/excessive instructor lecturing. These activities are not lectures; they are carefully structured learning experiences. The three essentials encapsulate an important theme of ecological interconnectedness between snowpack, watershed systems and human consumption of water. Together these activities combine to create a powerful learning experience that solidifies the connection between nature, science and the students’ own lives. In this abbreviated guide you will find a description of the three activities and connections to national curriculum standards.

**SAMPLE**

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