



**Icicles: What? Why? How?**

**Draw some, as you think about how they form.**

# Icicles: What? Why? How?



**What:** Icicles are spikes of frozen water

**Why and How:** A layer of snow or ice on a rooftop will begin to melt as the sun beats down and changes that solid (frozen) water to a liquid. The liquid starts to drip off the edge of the rooftop, or slide out of a gutter, as in the pictures on the previous slide. The below-freezing temperatures of the surrounding air ( $< 0^{\circ}\text{C}$  or  $32^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) will cause the water to freeze back to ice. More drips will fall from the roof, sliding onto the nub of the icicle. As the drips of water reach the bottom of the icicle, where the temp is lower, they'll freeze. This continues until a long, cone shaped icicle forms.

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For more information and a short video, see:

<https://wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-are-icicles-formed>

Try to make your own icicles!

<https://www.education.com/science-fair/article/icy/>

