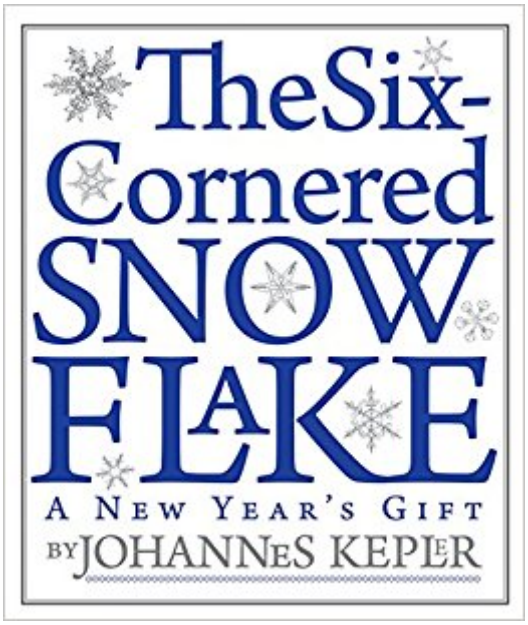
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# The Six-Cornered Snowflake




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## Synopsis

"In 1611, Kepler wrote an essay wondering why snowflakes always had perfect, sixfold symmetry. It’s a simple enough question, but one that no one had ever asked before and one that couldn’t actually be answered for another three centuries. Still, in trying to work out an answer, Kepler raised some fascinating questions about physics, math, and biology, and now you can watch in wonder as a great scientific genius unleashes the full force of his intellect on a seemingly trivial question, complete with new illustrations and essays to put it all in perspective."—io9, from their list "10 Amazing Science Books That Reveal The Wonders Of The Universe"When snow began to fall while he was walking across the Charles Bridge in Prague late in 1610, the eminent astronomer Johannes Kepler asked himself the following question: Why do snowflakes, when they first fall, and before they are entangled into larger clumps, always come down with six corners and with six radii tufted like feathers?In his effort to answer this charming and never-before-asked question about snowflakes, Kepler delves into the nature of beehives, peapods, pomegranates, five-petaled flowers, the spiral shape of the snail’s shell, and the formative power of nature itself. While he did not answer his original question—it remained a mystery for another three hundred years—he did find an occasion for deep and playful thought."A most suitable book for any and all during the winter and holiday seasons is a reissue of a holiday present by the great mathematician and astronomer Johannes Kepler…Even the endnotes in this wonderful little book are interesting and educationally fun to read."—Jay Pasachoff, The Key ReporterNew English translation by Jacques BrombergLatin text on facing pagesAn essay, "The Delights of a Roving Mind" by Owen GingerichAn essay, "OnÃ Â The Six-Cornered Snowflake" by Guillermo BleichmarSnowflake illustrations by Capi Corrales RodriganezJohn Frederick Nims’ poem "The Six-Cornered Snowflake"Notes by Jacques Bromberg and Guillermo BleichmarJohannes KeplerÃ Â (1571-1631) was an important figure in the seventeenth century astronomical revolution. He is best known for his eponymous laws of planetary motion. Kepler wrote: "If there is anything that can bind the heavenly mind of man to this dusty exile of our earthly home…then it is verily the enjoyment of the mathematical sciences and astronomy."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"In 1611, Kepler wrote an essay wondering why snowflakes always had perfect, sixfold symmetry. It’s a simple enough question, but one that no one had ever asked before and one that couldn’t actually be answered for another three centuries. Still, in trying to work out an answer, Kepler raised some fascinating questions about physics, math, and biology, and now you can watch in wonder as a great scientific genius unleashes the full force of his intellect on a seemingly trivial question, complete with new illustrations and essays to put it all in perspective."Ã¢â ¬â ¢io9, from their list "10 Amazing Science Books That Reveal The Wonders Of The Universe" "A most suitable book for any and all during the winter and holiday seasons is a reissue of a holiday present by the great mathematician and astronomer Johannes KeplerÃ¢â ¬Â|Even the endnotes in this wonderful little book are interesting and educationally fun to read."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Jay Pasachoff, The Key Reporter"In 1611, Kepler wrote an essay wondering why snowflakes always had perfect, sixfold symmetry. It’s a simple enough question, but one that no one had ever asked before and one that couldn’t actually be answered for another three centuries. Still, in trying to work out an answer, Kepler raised some fascinating questions about physics, math, and biology, and now you can watch in wonder as a great scientific genius unleashes the full force of his intellect on a seemingly trivial question, complete with new illustrations and essays to put it all in perspective."—io9, from their list "10 Amazing Science Books That Reveal The Wonders Of The Universe""A most suitable book for any and all during the winter and holiday seasons is a reissue of a holiday present by the great mathematician and astronomer Johannes Kepler…Even the endnotes in this wonderful little book are interesting and educationally fun to read."—Jay Pasachoff, The Key Reporter

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verily the enjoyment of the mathematical sciences and astronomy." Jacques Bromberg is a Ph.D. candidate in the Classics at the University of Pennsylvania. Guillermo Bleichmar earned his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Havard University in 2007.

Makes a great gift

Well written, very enjoyable...

This little book is a gem. It will make a great gift for a few of my more educated friends -- especially those who share an interest in Latin texts. Kepler is knowledgeable and has far-ranging interests as evidenced by the depth of his mathematical and physical analysis of the six-cornered snowflake. Some of his insights predict discoveries that would not be made until many years later. The two introductory essays are fascinating, and the poem by John Frederick Nims is a nice addendum.

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