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A Science Service Feature

! WHY THE WEATHER !

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ONE WAY TO MELT SNOW

One of Benjamin Franklin's experiments consisted of laying bits of cloth of various colors on a surface of snow in sunny weather and noting the affects. He observed that the cloth soon became heated and sank into the snow, the darker colored pieces sinking more rapidly, on account of their greater absorption of solar heat.

According to Prof. Ellsworth Huntington the Kashmiris living in certain districts of the Himalaya between Kashmir and Ladakh, at an altitude of about 10,500 feet, spread earth on the snow in order to make the snow melt more quickly. Sometimes a snowstorm covers the layer of soil on the old snow, and new soil is then gathered and spread.

On some of the forestry roads in the western United States the melting of snow in the spring is hastened by covering the snow with a layer of lampblack.

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