

# Good Fences

by Lisa Schneider

Biting winds. Freezing temperatures. Snowdrifts the size of houses. For people who live in Wyoming, winter can be a challenge. For animals kept outdoors there, winter can be a matter of life or death.

## Ask a Question

Eleven-year-old Erica David understood this danger because she raised goats, sheep, and pigs. Erica wanted to give her animals the best possible protection. She knew that snow fences helped to protect animals. So she wondered if snow fences could be built to work better.



▲ Snow fences trap blowing snow.

[Click sentences that show related ideas.](#)



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(continued)

## Do Research

First, Erica gathered information. She learned that snow fences slow and “catch” blowing snow. This prevents snow from building up on highways or animal pens. Was there a way to catch more snow?



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## Form a Hypothesis

Erica thought about two possible ideas, or hypotheses, to improve snow fences. Her first idea was to change the thickness of the boards used in the fences. The second idea was to change the spacing between the boards. Next, she would test her ideas to see if either one worked.



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