

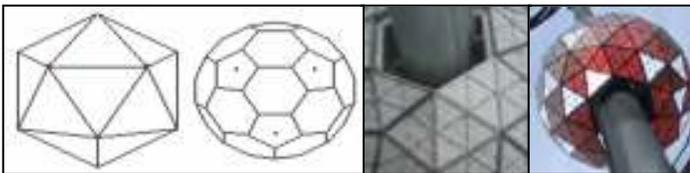
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The New Years Eve Times Square Ball seems to be an enigma of sorts. Just exactly *how* many crystals are in it? Let's take a closer look!

First of all, the shape of the Waterford Crystal ball has not changed since it was unveiled for the Millennium celebration in 2000. It's a soccer ball made up of 12 pentagons and 18 hexagons (a normal **truncated icosahedron** has 12 pentagons and 20 hexagons but the ball has 2 missing at the top and bottom around which the pole wraps.)



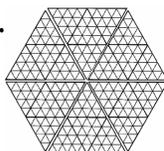
Truncated simply means without corners The 2 missing hexagons

Each shape is then subdivided into triangles: 60 in the 5-sided pentagons (12x5) and 108 in the 6-sided hexagons (18x6) or **168** total triangles in the skeleton.

Now for the crystals!
Each triangle is further subdivided as shown here.

	From 2000 – 2007 the middle triangle was a light bulb: $168 \times 3 = 504$ crystals.
	For 2008, the light bulbs were removed, adding one more crystal per panel... $504 + 168 = 672$ total.
	Then last year, each crystal was subdivided <i>again</i> into 4 smaller ones: $672 \times 4 = 2688$ total crystals!

Dividing those 2688 into 4 even smaller ones would yield 10,752! You can design a pattern for one such hexagon at <http://www.creativityisforever.com/7.html>



WANNA GET AWAY?



Many believe the loneliest place on Earth is the island of **Tristan da Cunha** in the South Atlantic (about the same distance off the coast of South Africa as it is from Bangor, Maine to Miami, Florida.) This crime-free paradise has a humble population of 275. The nearest inhabited land? St. Helena (the island where Napoleon was exiled from 1815 until his death in 1821)...1300 miles away!



Anamonics are part ANagrams and part mneMONIC devices used by Scrabble players to remember word lists! In the most common form, a 2-letter word (or "stem") is paired with a short phrase containing all the letters that can be added to those 2 letters to make a legal 3-letter word.



"KNIGHT SWAM"

KAE (v.) to serve
NAE (adv.) not any
GAE (v.) to go
HAE (v.) to have
TAE (v.) to toe
SAE (adv.) so
WAE (n.) woe
MAE (n.) more

AE is a Scottish word meaning "one"
No other letters added to "AE" are legal in Scrabble©