



TOPIC: HOW TO BUILD AN IGLOO AND OTHER SNOW SHELTERS

PROJECT PERSONNEL: Bert Yankielun

GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT:

The “Inuit” are the native people of Alaska, and northern most America and over to Greenland. Inuit means “the people”. This people learned to survive in what we would feel are very harsh climates. Building temporary winter hunting shelters was important to their way of life. An igloo, also spelled ‘iglu’, is a temporary winter shelter built by Inuit to be used mainly in winter hunting camps.

The igloo probably evolved over hundreds of years mainly by Canadian and Greenland Inuit. Historically the igloos were constructed using a long sharp blade knife to cut the snow into blocks.

The igloo is a carefully balanced construction, requiring precise shaping and placement of snow blocks so that when it is completed it forms a stable and strong dome-shaped structure that is so strong that a person could even stand on the roof! Using snow as the construction material keeps the igloo warm, as snow is a good insulator due to its low density.

See the attached sheet for designs of different snow dwellings that can be constructed in the winter based on the conditions, type of snow available, and other materials found in the wild.