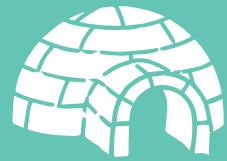


Build an Igloo Challenge!

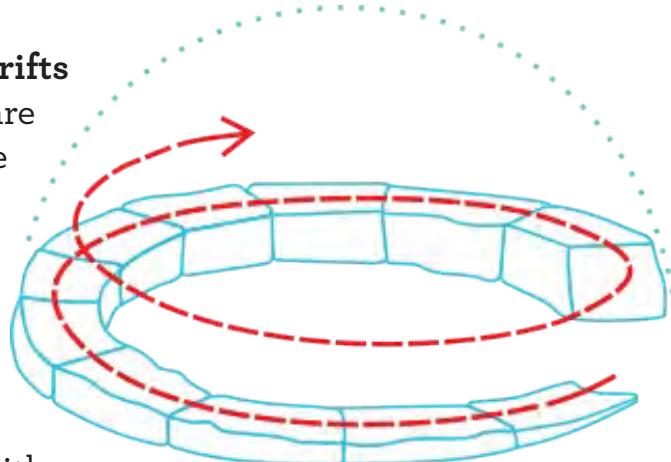


Igloo at MPM

This is a scene from the 1930s depicting a temporary shelter made of winter snow, built for a hunting or fishing trip. **Not all Arctic peoples lived in igloos; they were created by only those who lived in Canada and Greenland.** Most Arctic peoples lived in tents made from animal skins and bones in the summer and in large sod houses during the winter. **The majority of Arctic people now live in houses.**

Igloo Engineering

Rectangular blocks are cut out of compacted snow drifts with knives and stacked into a circle. The blocks are then cut diagonally on a slope and more blocks are stacked upwards in a spiral shape. The doorway is a low archway closed with a skin or fitted slab. Clear ice may make a window. The inside is dome-shaped to add stability and insulation, with walls at least 12 inches thick. The smoother the walls, the less likely the cave dripped as the temperature rose inside. A ventilation hole was bored into the top of the cave with a pole or stick, allowing for the release of carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide that built up from breathing, candles, and cookstoves.



Igloos provided both an emergency and recreational winter shelter. When properly made, **the inside will stay at 32°F**, and one lit candle can increase the temperature as much as 20 degrees.

Build an Igloo Challenge

This month, we are challenging you to build an igloo (or a model of an igloo) at home! Use anything you have on hand to create your own version of the igloo located on the Third Floor of the Milwaukee Public Museum. Show us your creations on social media, or send them to communications@mpm.edu and we will share what you have done!

Watch These Videos to See How Igloos Are Made

Videos may contain language which is out-of-date.

[How to Build a REAL Igloo](#)

[Tuktu-4 - The Snow Palace \(How to Build a REAL Inuit Igloo\)](#)

