



“Exploring the World of Winter” Winter First Grade Outdoor Activity

Michigan Science Objectives: At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Identify at least two different types of snow and explain why there are differences (Changes in Matter 1).
2. Explain how the shape or texture of snow is related to friction in winter games like sledding, skiing, or the Native American snow snakes (Changes in Matter 2).

Thinking Skills: Explain, identify and build.

Overview of Activity: Students will learn about how Eskimos and Ojibway people lived with the snow. They will hunt for different snow types before trying to build an igloo and race snow snakes!

National Park Connection: The history of how early people lived, worked and played in the snow can be found in National Parks! National Parks can provide fun winter recreational opportunities.

Procedure:

1. Before going outside, read stories of Eskimo and Ojibway people living in snowy environments, including their games (snow snake) and home construction (igloos).
2. Once outside, search for two different kinds of snow (on top of snow banks and inside snow banks). Look closely with a hand lens. Discuss why they are different (weight pressure).
3. Pack snow into igloo block molds, remove molds, and begin building igloo.
4. Play with snow snakes by sliding across ice or hard-packed snow (appendix 4). Discuss friction and the value in waxing snake bottoms.

Materials Needed: Stories of Eskimo and Ojibway people in winter, snow snake information, igloo snow block wooded molds, snow snakes, shovels, hand lens, hard-packed snow snake racing area.

