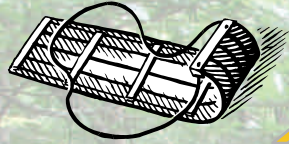
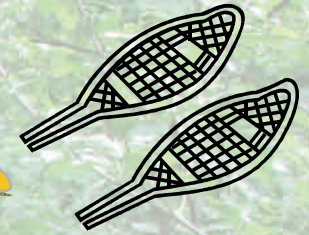


HUMBER ARBORETUM ECO CENTRE



TBOGGANING and SNOWSHOEING



INTERESTING FACTS

- ✦ Today, toboggans are used to ride down a hill for a winter recreation activity. Long ago they were used as a form of transportation by the Cree and Innu of Northern Canada. When travelling, important items and children that were too young to walk were carried on the toboggan.
- ✦ A traditional toboggan is made of parallel wooden slats that are curved up at the front. It looks like the letter "J" lying on its side. A rope is fastened at the front to provide some steering. The front rider sits with their feet under the curved part and the other riders sit behind and hold the waist of the person in front of them.
- ✦ The snowshoe is one of humankind's earliest inventions. It has been used for travel over deep snow for about 6000 years!
- ✦ Snowshoes were used by anyone who needed to travel in snow country and, up until about 100 years ago, people made their own snowshoes. In the 1800's snowshoeing clubs became popular as a recreational activity. Skiing has replaced snowshoeing as a popular winter sport only in the last 50 years.

COOL ACTIVITIES

Making Snowshoes

Long ago, people made their own shoes. Why not try to make your own model of a pair of snowshoes?

You will need to choose a type of snowshoe to design. Have the students research to find a good picture of the type of snowshoe that they would like to make.

To create the frame, you will need a strong flexible material. Students could bring in tree branches or wire to bend into the shape. The frame could also be cut out of cardboard in the shape of the snowshoe. The frame will also need a stabilizing cross bar.

The lacing of the snowshoe can be done using yarn or string. The students can be encouraged to create interesting patterns when lacing the shoe but remember there must be a space left for the toe to go through.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How does a toboggan differ from a sleigh or sled? (ANS: A sled has runners or skis on the underside. A toboggan has no runners; the bottom of the toboggan rides directly on the snow.)
2. Why do people use snowshoes? (ANS: Snowshoes allow a person to walk on the surface of deep snow. This makes it easier to travel across the snow. Without snowshoes, a person would sink deep in the snow making it very tiring to walk very far.)
3. Describe two different types of snowshoes. (ANS: The Bear Paw is oval in shape and does not have a tail. It is used in thick woods and hilly areas. Although it is very manoeuvrable, it is not good in deep snow. The Beaver Tail is a tear drop shape with an upturned toe and a long tail. It is good on trails and in open areas but has difficulty in deep powdery snow. This type is the most popular shape today.)