



Snowshoeing Post-visit

Classroom Activities

Brief Synopsis

After experiencing snowshoeing at Eagle Bluff, this activity will enforce the knowledge of different types of snowshoes and for what terrain they are best used. This activity will also allow them to express their creativity in designing a pair of snowshoes for a particular area.

Ages: Designed for 5th–8th grade

Time Considerations: Approximately 1 hour

Materials:

- Legal-size (or larger) paper
- Writing and drawing utensils
- The attached photos printed out
- Optional Activity: Balsa wood rods, string, stapler, and tape.

Vocabulary: Terrain, Ojibwa, underbrush, rudder

Outcomes:

- Students will use knowledge they gained at Eagle Bluff to design snowshoes for different terrains.

Minnesota Academic Standards:

Science: 7.I.D

Language Arts: 5.I.C, 5.II.C, 5.III.A, 6.II.C, 6.III.A, 7.III.C, 8.III.C

Arts: 4/5 D.1, 6-8 D.1



Revised March 2009

Activity 1: Project Snowshoe

Background: At Eagle Bluff, the students learned about the differences between snowshoes and which snowshoes best suit different areas. In this activity, groups of students will be given a photo of an area in the winter. Their task will be to analyze the area and design a snowshoe that would be best suited for that area.

Procedures:

1. Separate the students into 4 different groups and give each group one of the attached photos. Each of the photos also has a description of that area. Each group needs to evaluate the landscape and design a snowshoe that would best suit that area. Provide the students with larger paper to prepare their final design on.
2. Once the students have designed and drawn out their snowshoes in their groups, they will then present their designs to the rest of the class. Discussing the various features of the snowshoe for the terrain. Students will really need to put a lot of thought into what features the snowshoe should have to be the most effective.
3. As an optional extension, have the students build a snowshoe using balsa wood rods and string. The model does not need to be life-size, or actually function. This would give the students an idea of the thought process that went into designing some of the original snowshoes.
4. There is no “wrong” answer as long as the students have thought out the design of their snowshoe. However the typical snowshoe designs and descriptions for these terrains are listed below.



Photo 1: Since the area is mostly open with fairly deep snow and thick brush, the Ojibwa style of snowshoe is what is typically used in this terrain. This snowshoe is pointed at both ends, allowing the wearer to slice through snow and brush, creating an easy forward motion.

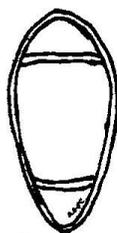


Photo 2: This area is very wooded with thick underbrush. The type of snowshoe that is best suited for this terrain is one that is smaller with easy maneuverability. The Bear paw style of snowshoe is what is typically used in this terrain. The design is small, rounded and has no tail. They are excellent for walking in thick underbrush and in the woods due to a small frame and easy maneuverability.



Photo 3: This area is open with very deep snow. Because this area is open, maneuverability is not a concern. The snowshoe design typically used for this terrain is the Alaskan. The Alaskan is the most stable type of snowshoe because of its large surface area. The design has a large upturn in the front and a long tail in the rear. The upturned front allows the user to step over the terrain and the tail serves as a rudder and counter-balance weight. This snowshoe handles best in wide, open areas with deep snow.



Photo 4: The snowshoe design that works well with open areas and cleared trails is the Michigan or Maine style. This was a commonly used style of shoe in the past. The design incorporates a long tail and a slight upturn at the front. It was primarily designed for use in open areas and cleared trails, because it can be cumbersome in thick forest or unpacked trails. The tail acts as a rudder and permits the snowshoe to stay in a straight line with each step. It is also a counterweight, allowing the front end to rise more easily.

Teacher Tips

- This project can be as simple or involved as you would like it to be. Feel free to adapt it to your needs.
- If your school allows, find library or hallway space to display your students' snowshoe designs, so each of your students can help educate the entire school.



Additional Resources

<http://www.treadlightly.org/page.php/responsible-snowsports/Recreation-Tips.html?gclid=CJCMY-S05JgCFc5L5QodXCcucA>

Ways to responsibly snowshoe without disturbing native flora or fauna.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks/trails/snowshoe.html>

A guide to the snowshoeing trails in Wisconsin.

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/young_naturalists/snowshoeing/index.html

Information on the history of snowshoeing as well as the safety of it.

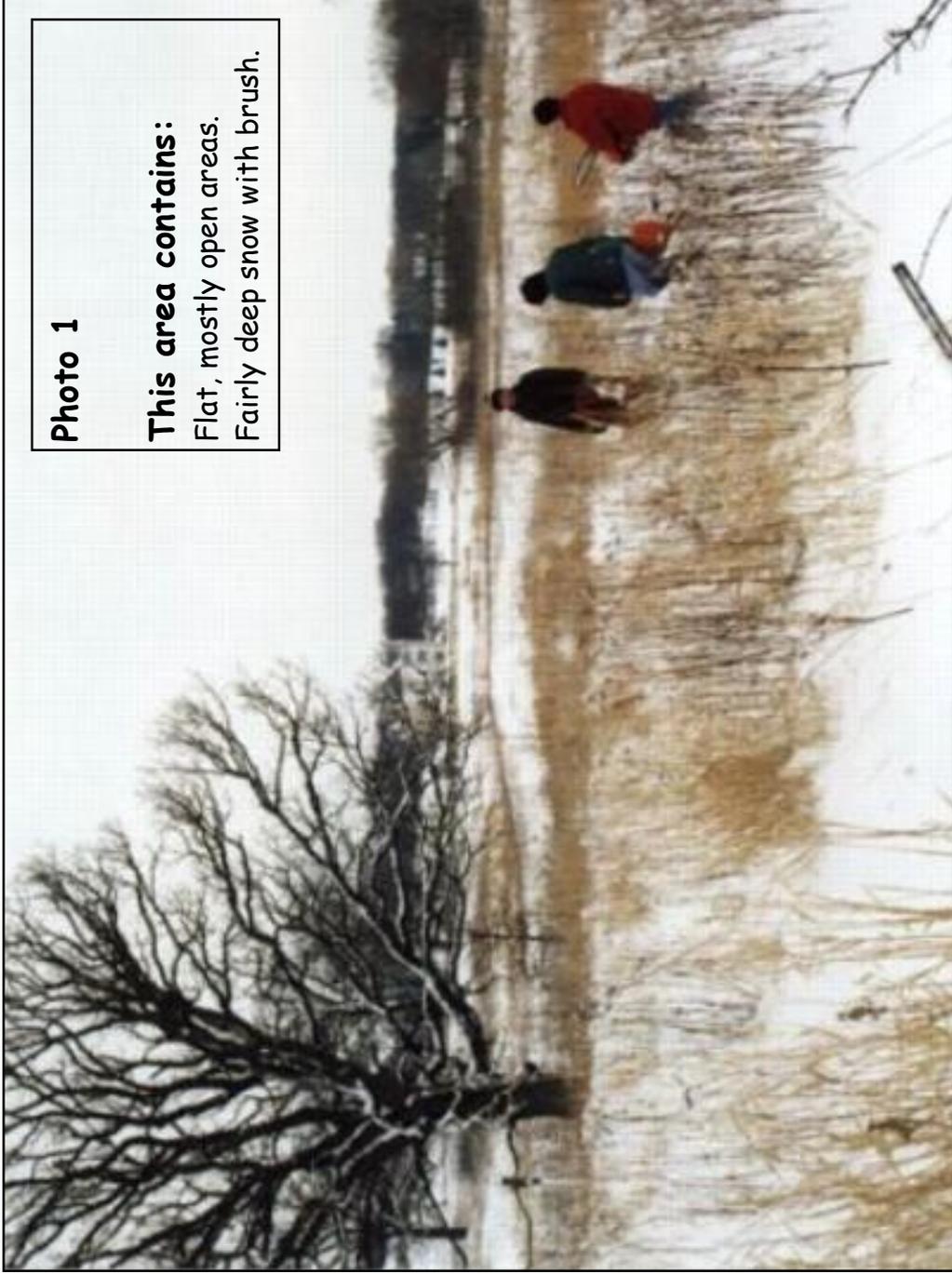


Photo 1

This area contains:
Flat, mostly open areas.
Fairly deep snow with brush.



Photo 2

This area contains:

Lots of trees to maneuver around.

Thick underbrush.

Photo 3

**This area contains:
Very deep snow.
Vast open areas.**





Photo 4

This area contains:
Open areas.
Cleared trails.
Not much use for going into the
forested areas.