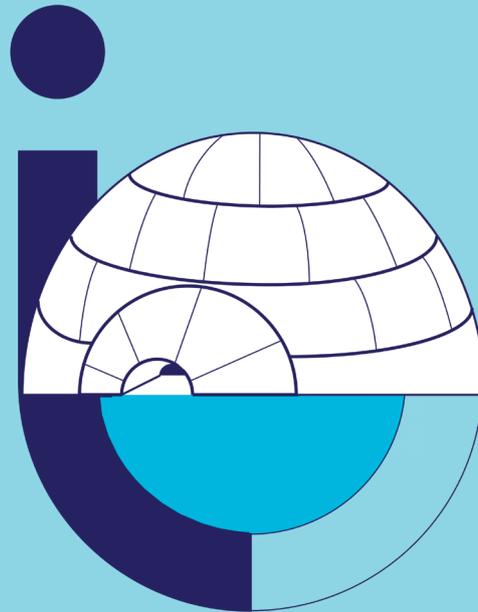




I for Igloo

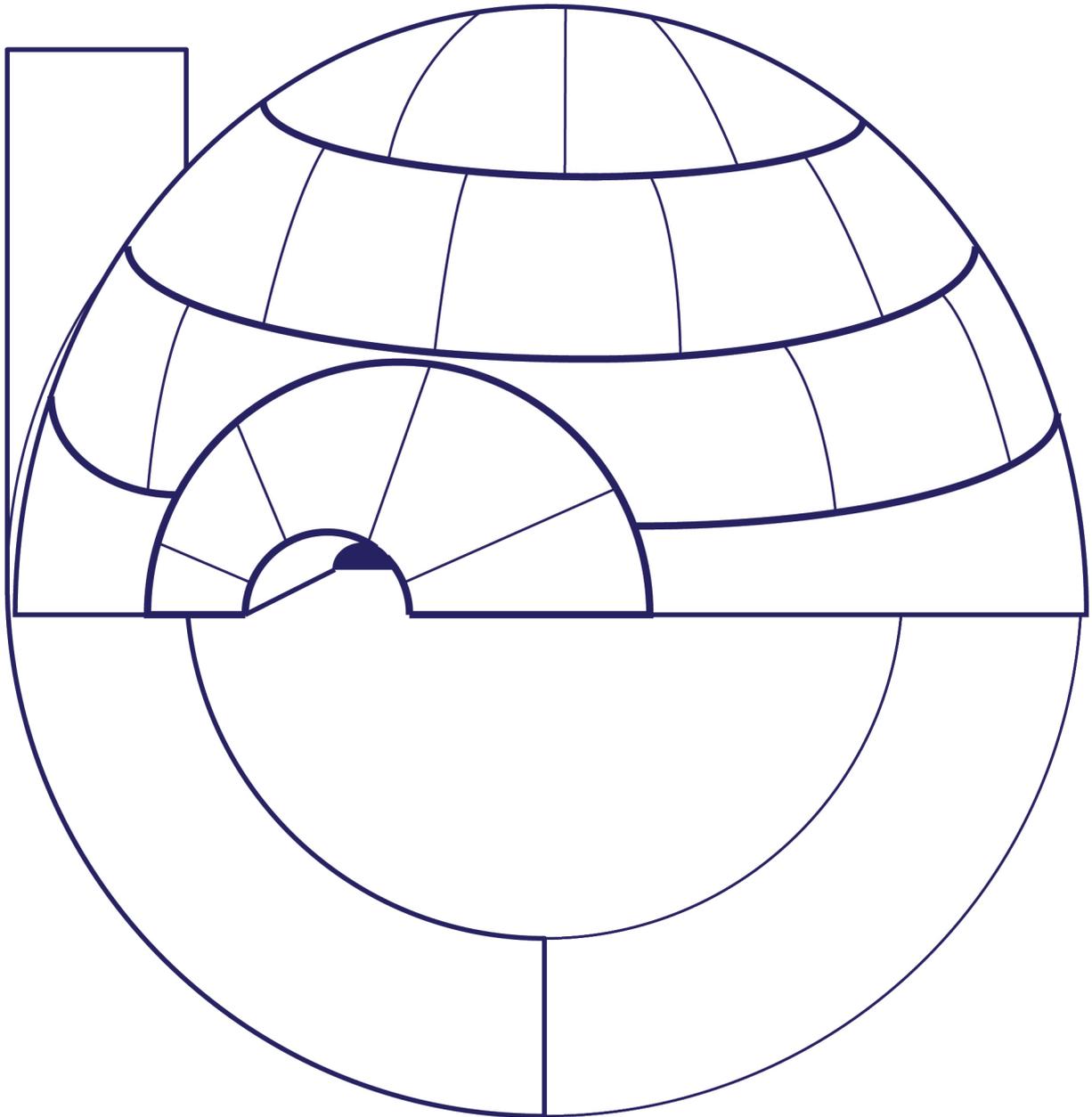
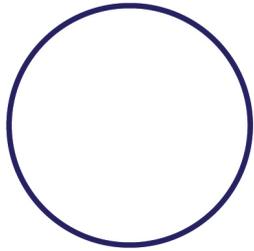


Fun Facts

1. Igloos can be made as **temporary structures** for one person, one or two families or even up to five rooms housing twenty people. These larger igloos might be a group of smaller igloos connected by tunnels.
2. The best snow to use for building igloos is that which has been **blown by the wind** and can be compacted and made into bricks.
3. Igloos can even support people **standing** on their roofs!

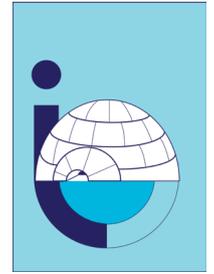


Colour me in





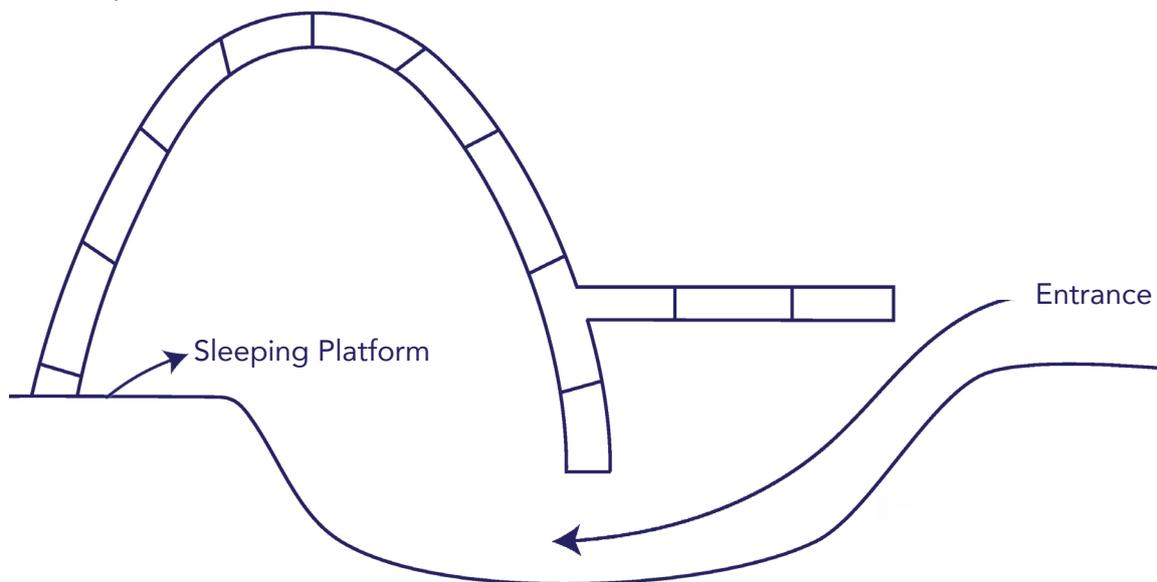
Igloo



Igloos are homes made of snow. People often think that igloos are made out of ice, but packed snow contains air pockets which make the snow an insulator. A single person can raise the inside temperature to 16°C (61°F) when outside it can be as cold as -45°C (-49°F). We use insulation in our homes too. This makes them energy efficient, which is better for the environment and costs us less electricity to heat. Many homes use fibreglass as insulation which contains 40-60% recycled glass, but wool, denim, cellulose (which is 80-85% recycled newsprint) or Polyurethane Spray Foam (can be made from soy or vegetable oil) can also be used.

Diagram of an igloo

Warm air rises and cold air sinks, so the sleeping platforms were made in the raised area. The entrance traps the cold air inside. The inside can also be lined which will increase the temperature inside.



Igloos are made into the shape of a catenary curve or parabola which means it is not perfectly round. This shape helps the snow bricks support each other and stay standing.

Activity

All different types of materials can be used to build. We sometimes use sand to create sandcastles at the beach and you've probably used other found objects to build at home.

What new materials can you find to build a structure? You could try using pasta, bottle caps, paper clips - try challenging yourself to see what shapes you can make with those objects!

You can also do an experiment to learn more about insulation here:

<https://www.metrofamilymagazine.com/simple-science-experiments-all-about-insulation/>