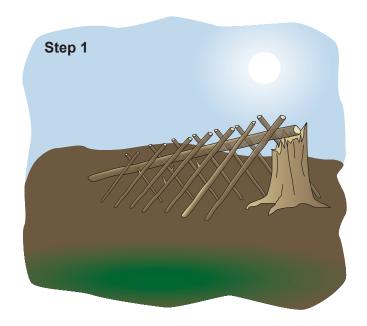
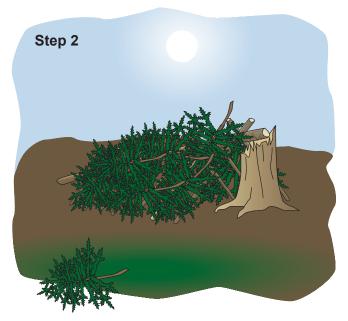
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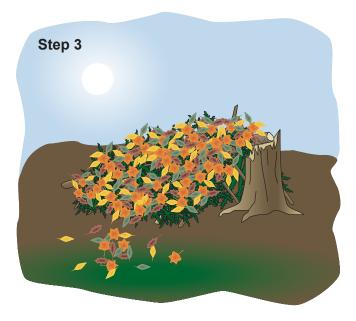
Building A Shelter: Debris Shelter



Start with a sturdy ridgepole that can handle the weight of the shelter. Prop it high enough to allow room for a person to enter, feet first. If you cannot find a place to prop the pole, find a way to lash the pole to the first and tallest ribs. Add additional ribs, crossing them at the top to create a sturdy frame.

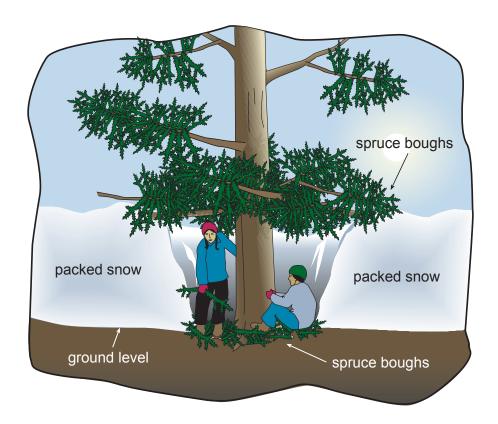


Add evergreen boughs to fully cover the frame and ridgepole. Fill it in as much as possible.



Pile loose leaves and other debris (grass, plants) to completely cover the entire shelter. Continue to add leaves, etc. until the evergreen boughs and frame are completely hidden, then add some more!

VISUAL AID Building A Shelter: Snow Pit Shelter



Find a large evergreen tree and dig a trench near the base as far down to the ground as possible and wide enough to sit or lay without touching the walls. Pile evergreen boughs in the bottom. Be generous. Make a roof cover by adding more evergreen boughs to the opening.

Native Knowledge:

"Dry snow won't build a snow cave," says John Knutsen, an Aleut elder from Naknek. The snow won't hold a shape. "You have to manipulate it, move it around. Then it gets firm. You create friction so it melts and freezes and gets hard. Then you can build a snow cave."