

# YangFang™ SNOW SAW



**BE AT HOME IN THE SNOW**



Thank you for purchasing a  
**YangFang™** snowsaw.

We have enjoyed the challenges of snow-block construction for many years, and are proud to provide you with the highest-quality tool for all your winter endeavors.

**Benjamin Yang,**  
founder/creator

*• Enjoy the snow  
in a whole new way •*



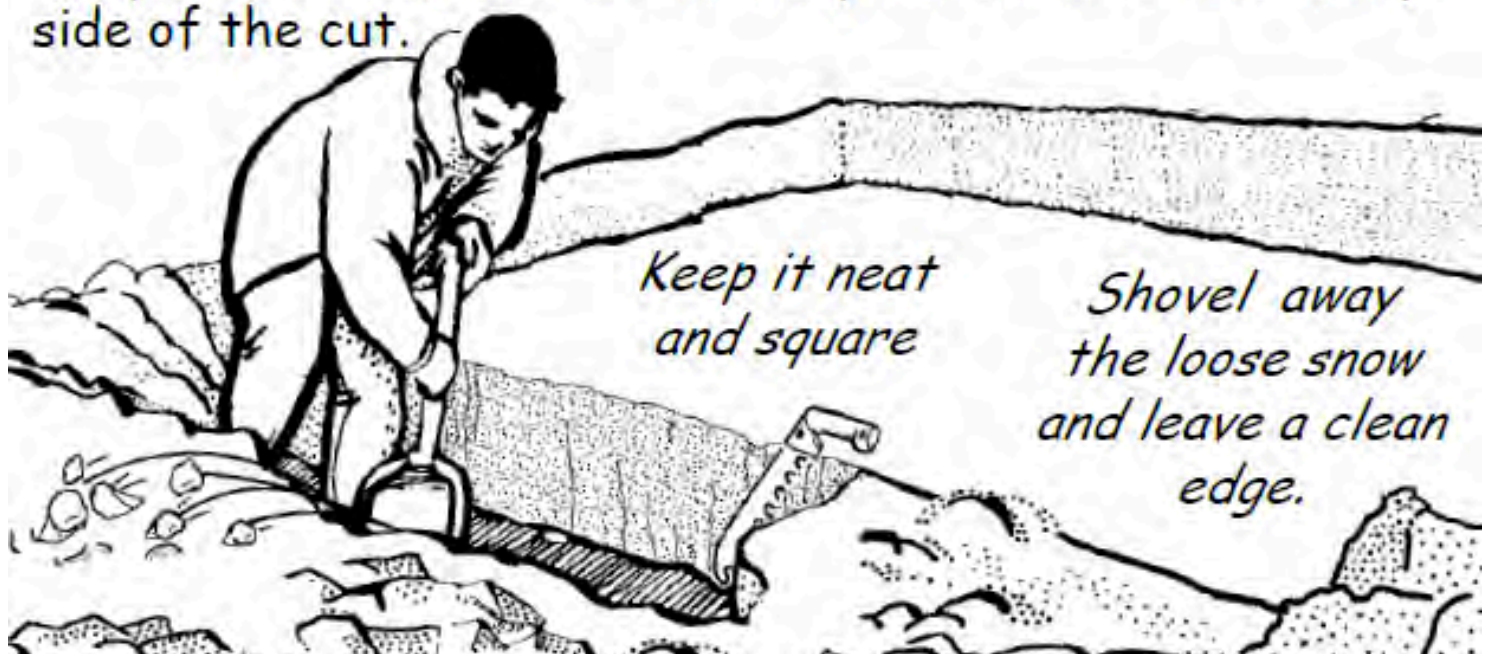
**• Large projecting FANG for ripping through dense layers of snow and ice**

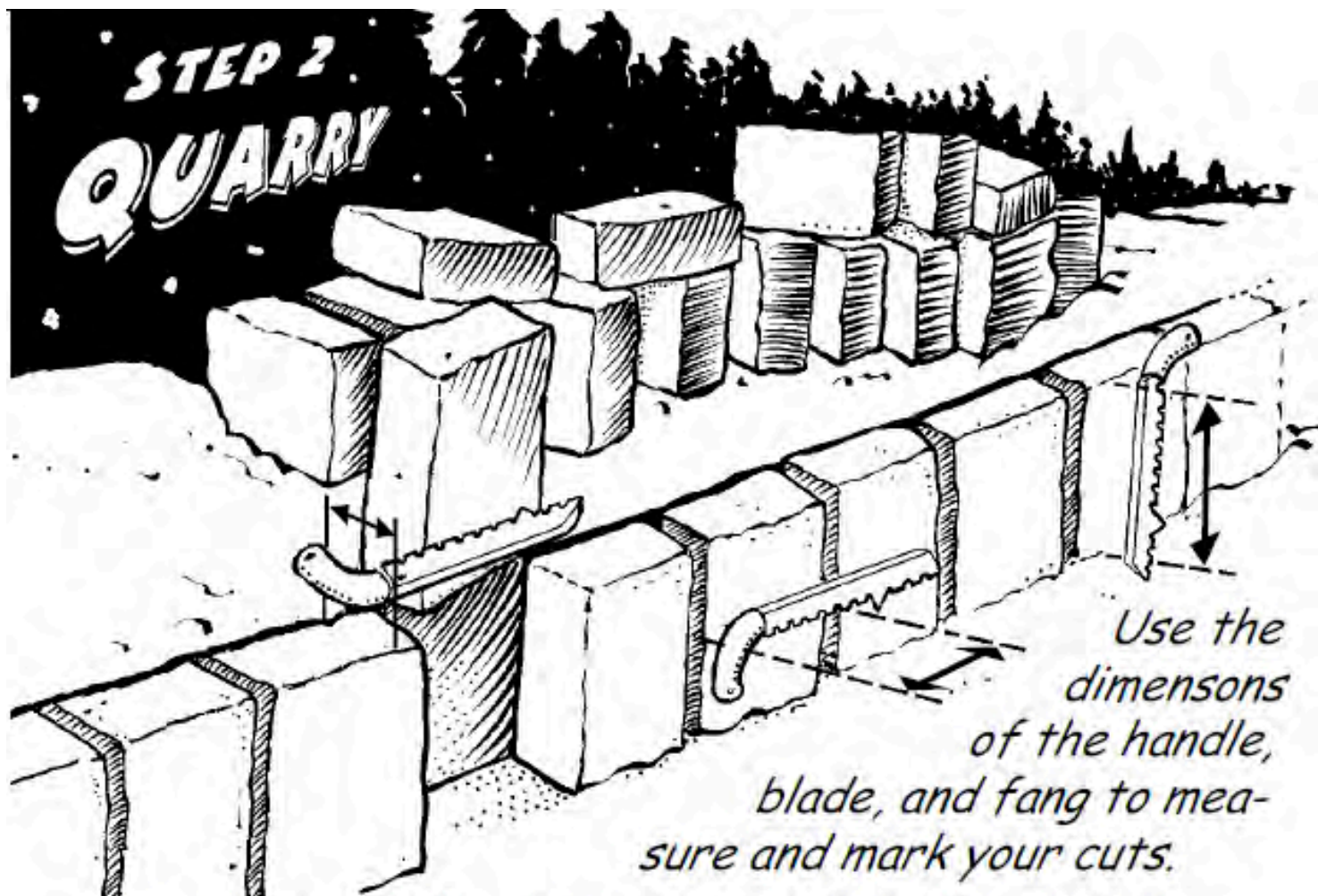
- Lightweight, 9.5 Oz., durable aluminum
- Ergonomic handle for sustained use
- Double-edged blade for shaping and accurately placing snow blocks
- Extremely efficient offset, wide-kerf, cutting-tooth design
- Brightly colored easy-to-find handle
- Developed through many years of research and a rigorous seasonal testing program



Take your time to find a good location. Deep fresh snow is the best, away from buildings, trees and trails. Mark a bedroom sized rectangular space and stomp the snow until it won't compact any more. Smooth the top then pat it down with your hand to consolidate the surface. Now take a well-earned break. While you rest, the snow will set-up (re-freeze and harden) in about 20 minutes.

Your compacted snow is now ready to be cut. Start by making a deep, straight cut along the side of your compacted area, then shovel away the snow on the fluffy side of the cut.





*Use the dimensions of the handle, blade, and fang to measure and mark your cuts.*

Your compacted snow is now ready to be cut into blocks, the basic unit of snow construction. Cut all the blocks the same size. We recommend using the saw as a measuring tool until you can eyeball the best block size for the job. Carry the whole blocks to where they will be placed, then trim and set them into their permanent place.

Get to know the snow. If you find hard, icy, or crumbly layers in your snow blocks, consider compacting it again, or re-orienting your cuts to avoid snow that weakens the blocks.

For best results, cut using long strokes of the blade. Use the full length of the saw. You will feel the Fang smash away layers of crusty snow and ice. Clean-up is easy - just wait for the spring melt!

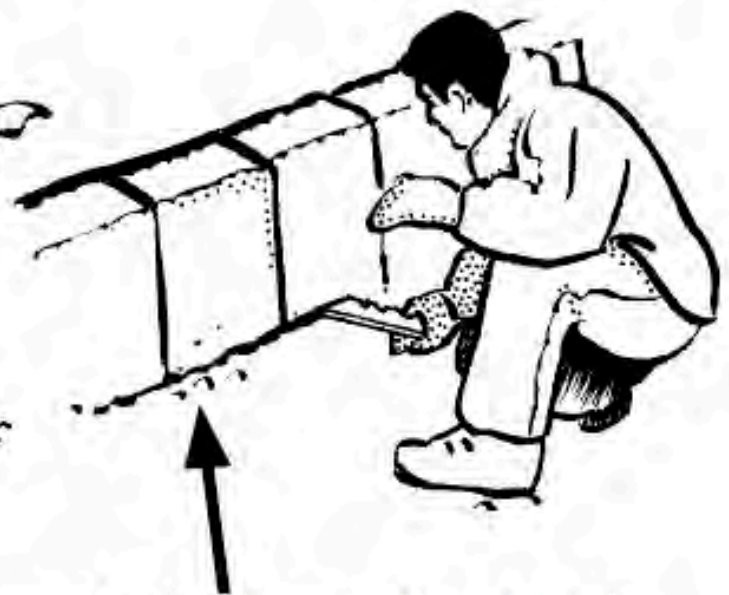
1 Make a single long, deep cut using the full saw length. This establishes the thickness of the blocks.



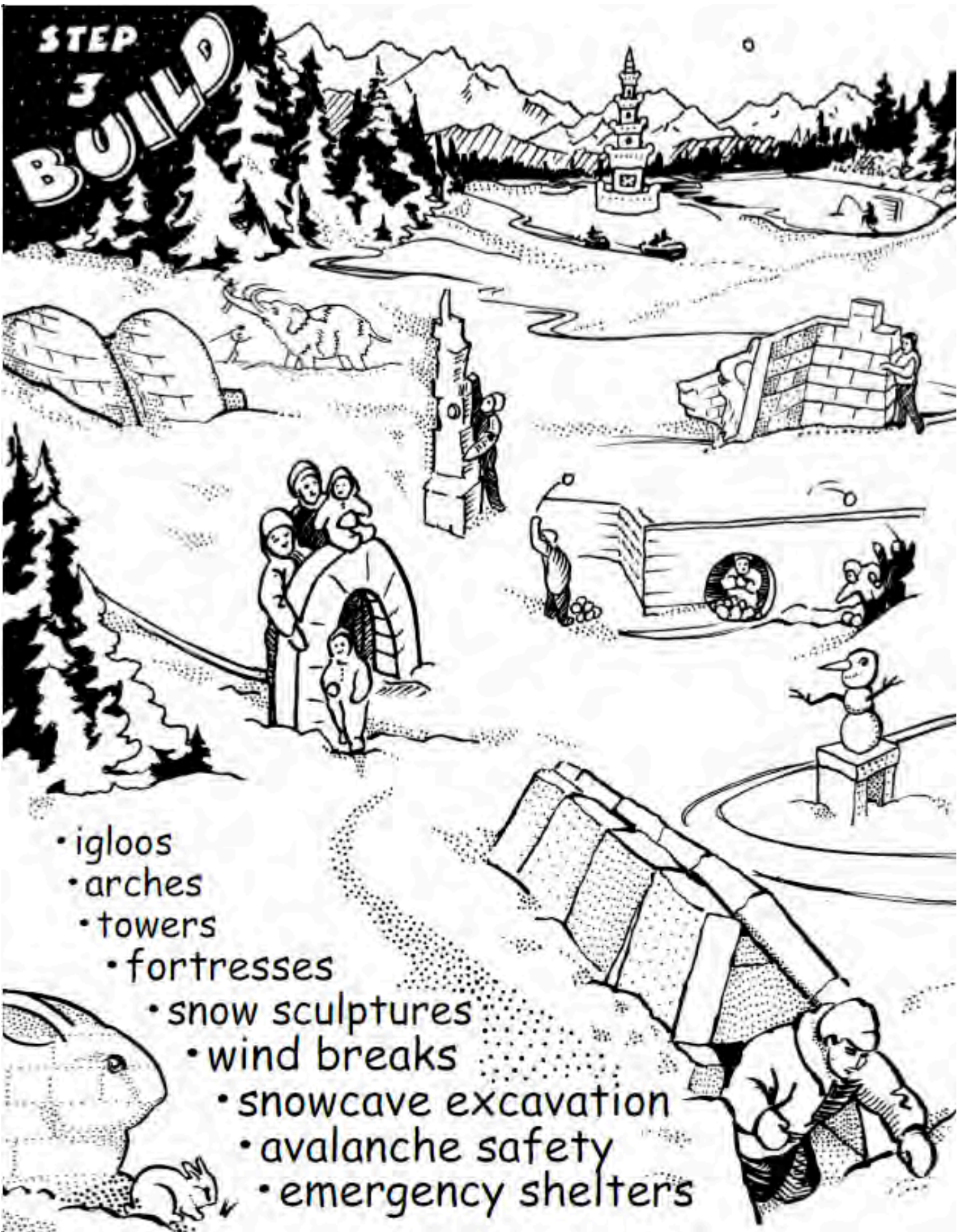
*FIRST mark the snow, THEN cut*



2 Cut the vertical sides. Make them all the same width!



3 Saw the bottom. The block will drop slightly when all sides are free. Re-saw if necessary.



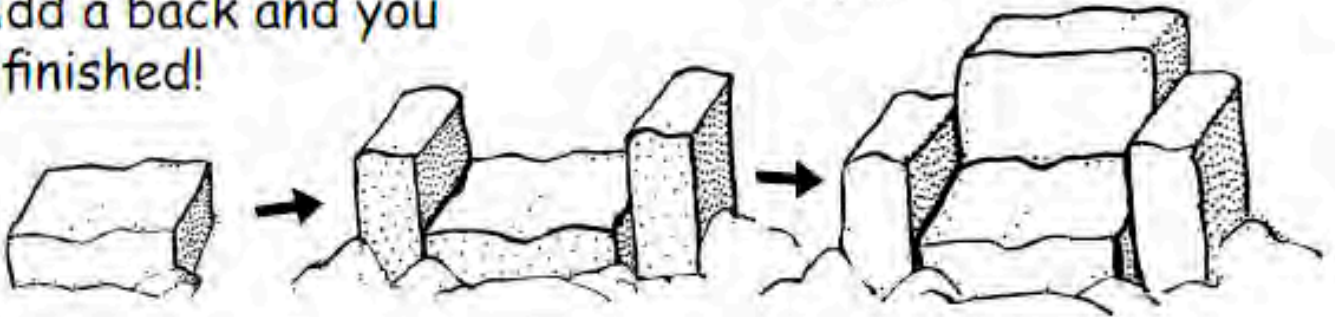
- igloos
- arches
- towers
- fortresses
- snow sculptures
- wind breaks
- snowcave excavation
- avalanche safety
- emergency shelters

# CHAIR

1 Start by placing the chair seat on a firm foundation

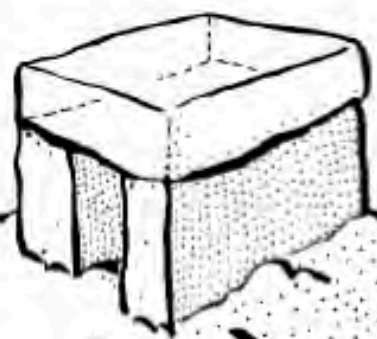
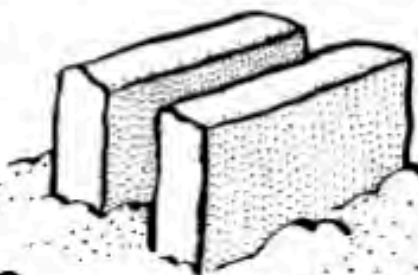
2 For strength, rub snow between the blocks.

3 Add a back and you are finished!



Make yourself at home!

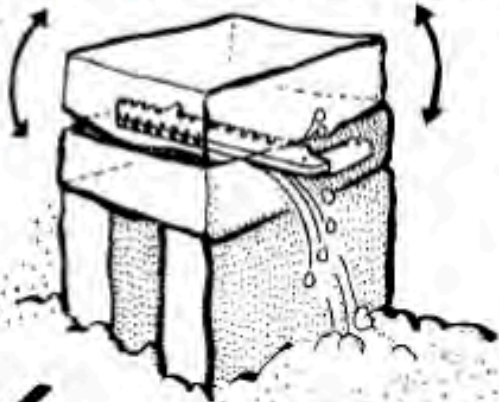
1 Start the tower on a solid foundation.



2 Stabilize the blocks by rubbing loose snow into the cracks.

3 If any block wobbles...

...cut back and forth between adjacent block contact points.



*Use the back cutting teeth to saw in the other direction.*



4 The block will settle down snugly into place. Continue building upwards as high as you can reach.







1 Connect two staggered stacks with supporting blocks.



2 Shape the support blocks, then add the top of the arch.



3 Rub snow into all the joints, then cut away the temporary supporting blocks.



4 Well compacted snow can yield surprisingly strong blocks. Try it!



# IGLOO

*An igloo is a free-standing dome.*

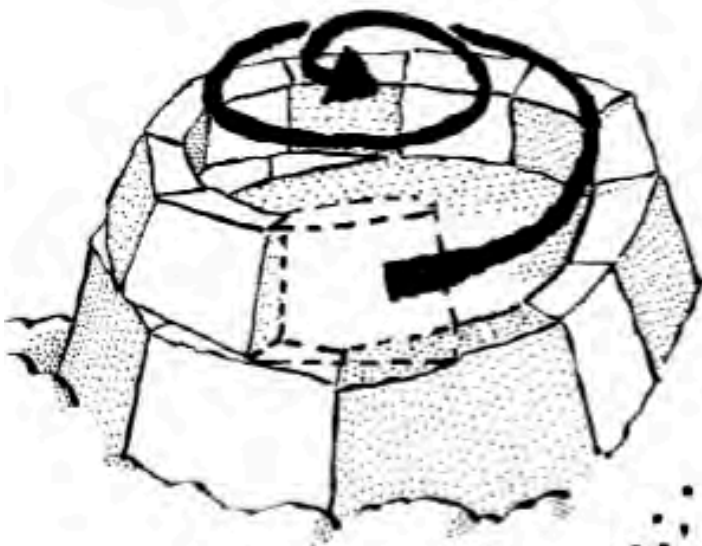
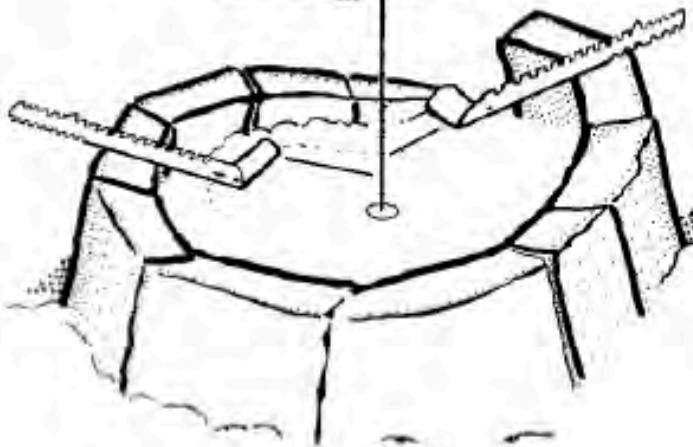
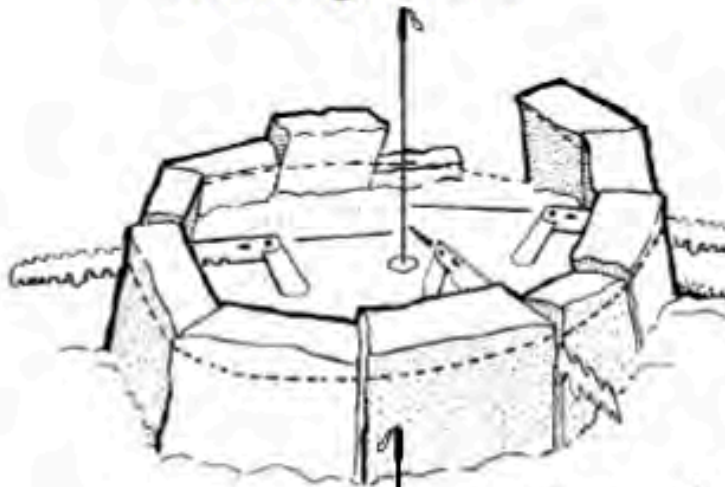


1 Scribe a perfect circle as wide as you are tall and lay the foundation blocks.

2 Angle all your between-the-block-cuts from the central axis (shown as a ski pole).

3 Cut the top of the blocks to make a spiral that gains one block height in  $360^{\circ}$ .

4 Continue placing and fitting blocks along this spiral. Bevel the top edge of the spiral inward. It will get steeper with each consecutive block.



5 Proper fit is critical. First trim and roughly fit each block, then set it in place.

*Excavate a door below the igloo once the wall is chest height.*



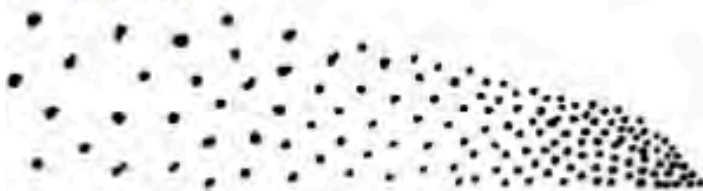
6 For maximum strength, all joints should be pointed toward the central axis.



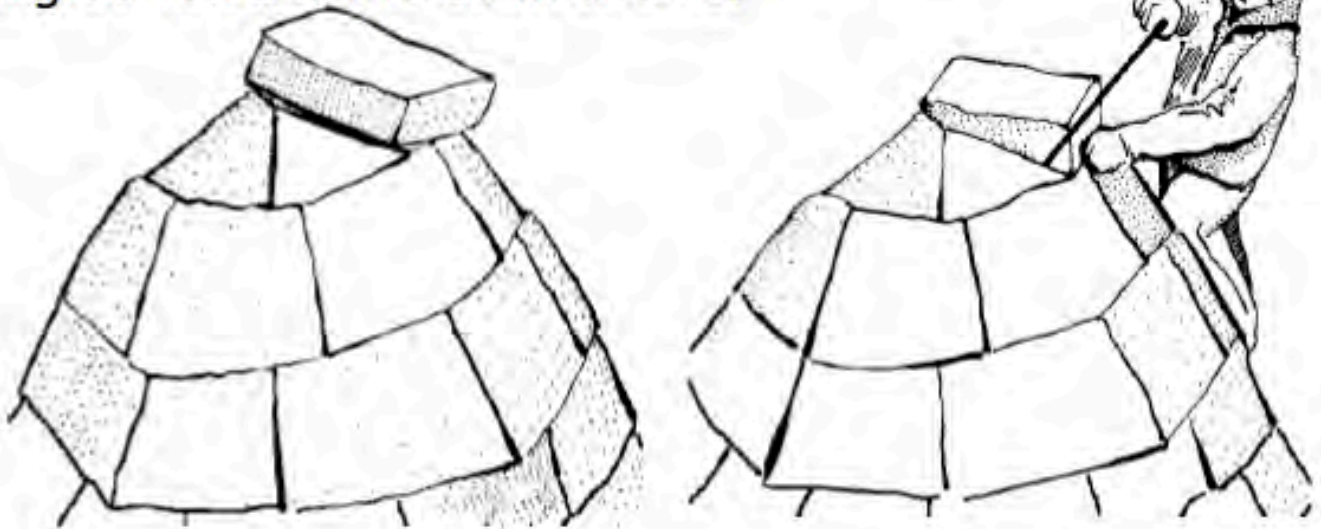
7 To set the blocks, use the double-edged blade to make multiple cuts between block faces until the block drops into place and is supported on its three corners. Place the next block only after any wobble has been stabilized.



*The block must be resting on these 3 corners so it does not wobble.*



7 Rest the final block over the hole and trim the edges until it drops into place. Your between-the-block-cuts should still be angled toward the central axis.



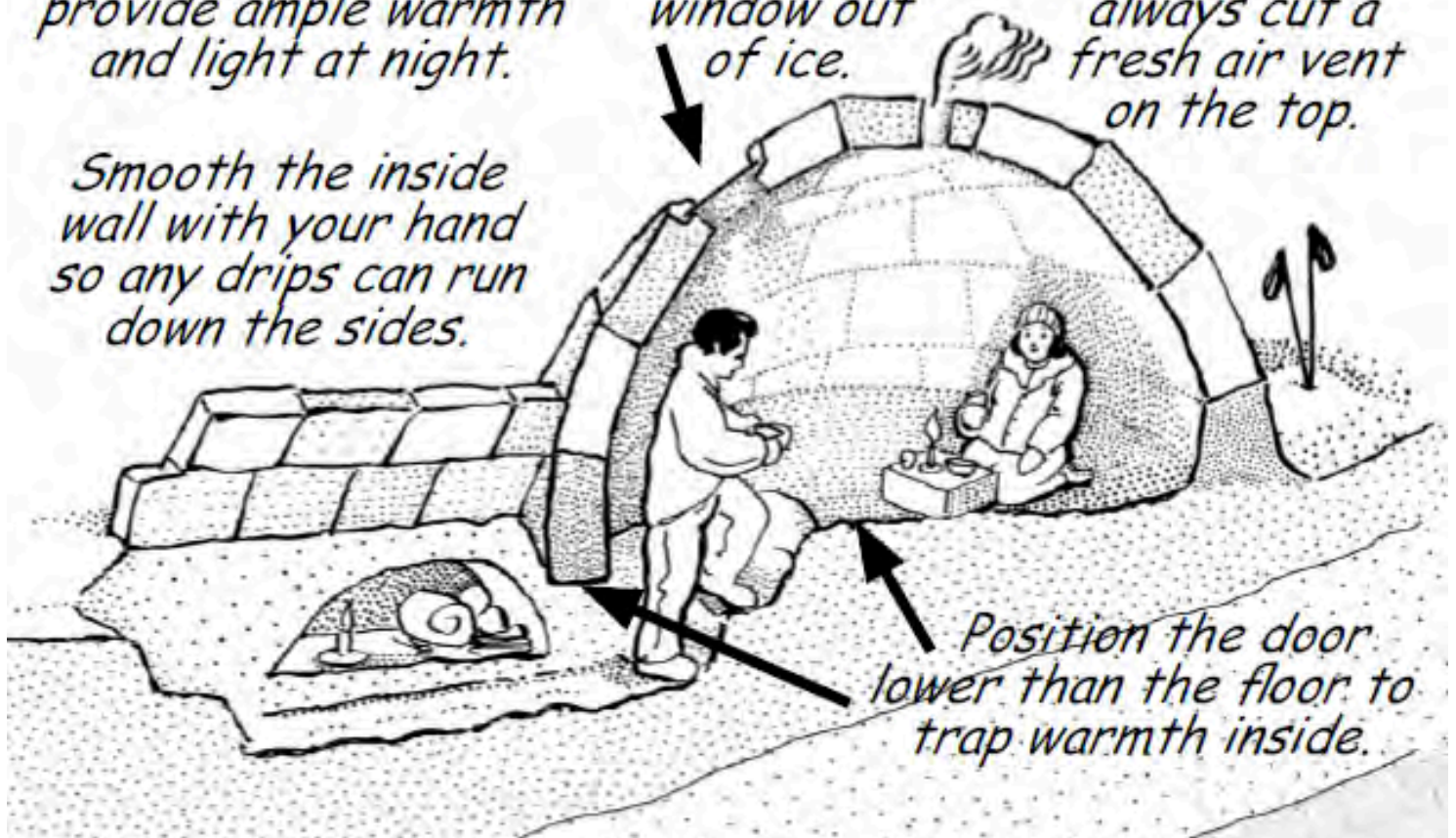
*Allow 3-6 hours for two people to build an igloo.*

*Several candles will provide ample warmth and light at night.*

*Smooth the inside wall with your hand so any drips can run down the sides.*

*Make a window out of ice.*

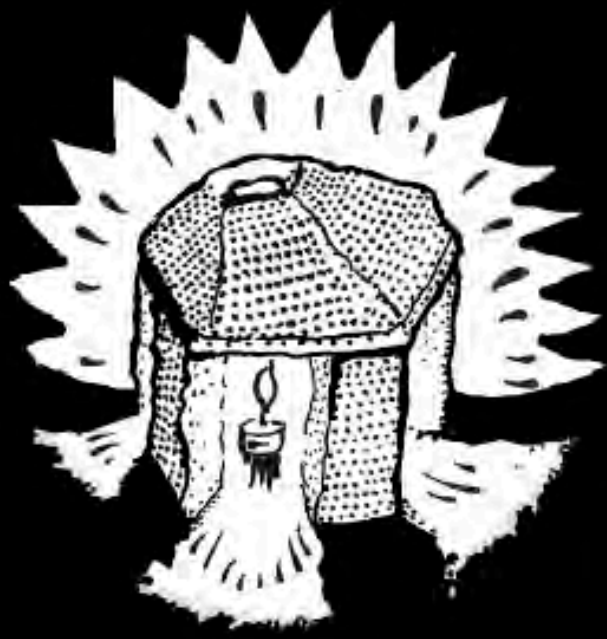
*You must always cut a fresh air vent on the top.*



*Position the door lower than the floor to trap warmth inside.*

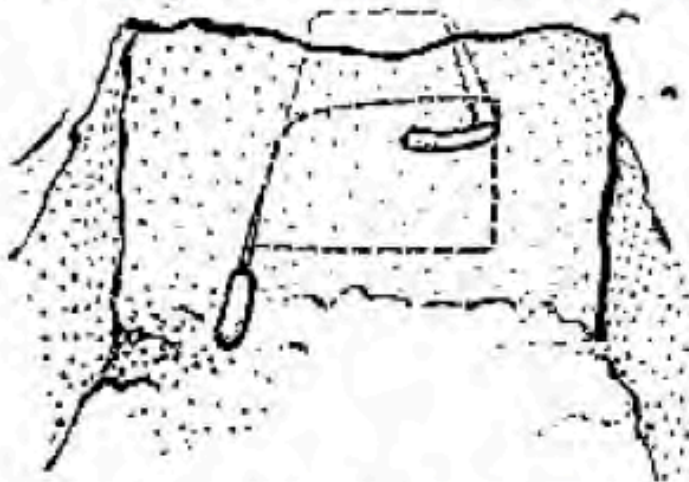
# SNOW LANTERN

Brighten up the long nights with a Snow Lantern. You will be amazed by the light of a single candle. Change the ambiance by varying the thickness and texture of the snow walls.



# EXCAVATION

When excavating for a snow cave, it is easy to move big chunks of snow down and out the door.



*First, use the YangFang to "score" the snow....*



*....then use your shovel to break off large chunks of snow up the the cuts.*

# SNOWCAVEATION



*Use a probe to test the snow quality and depth.*

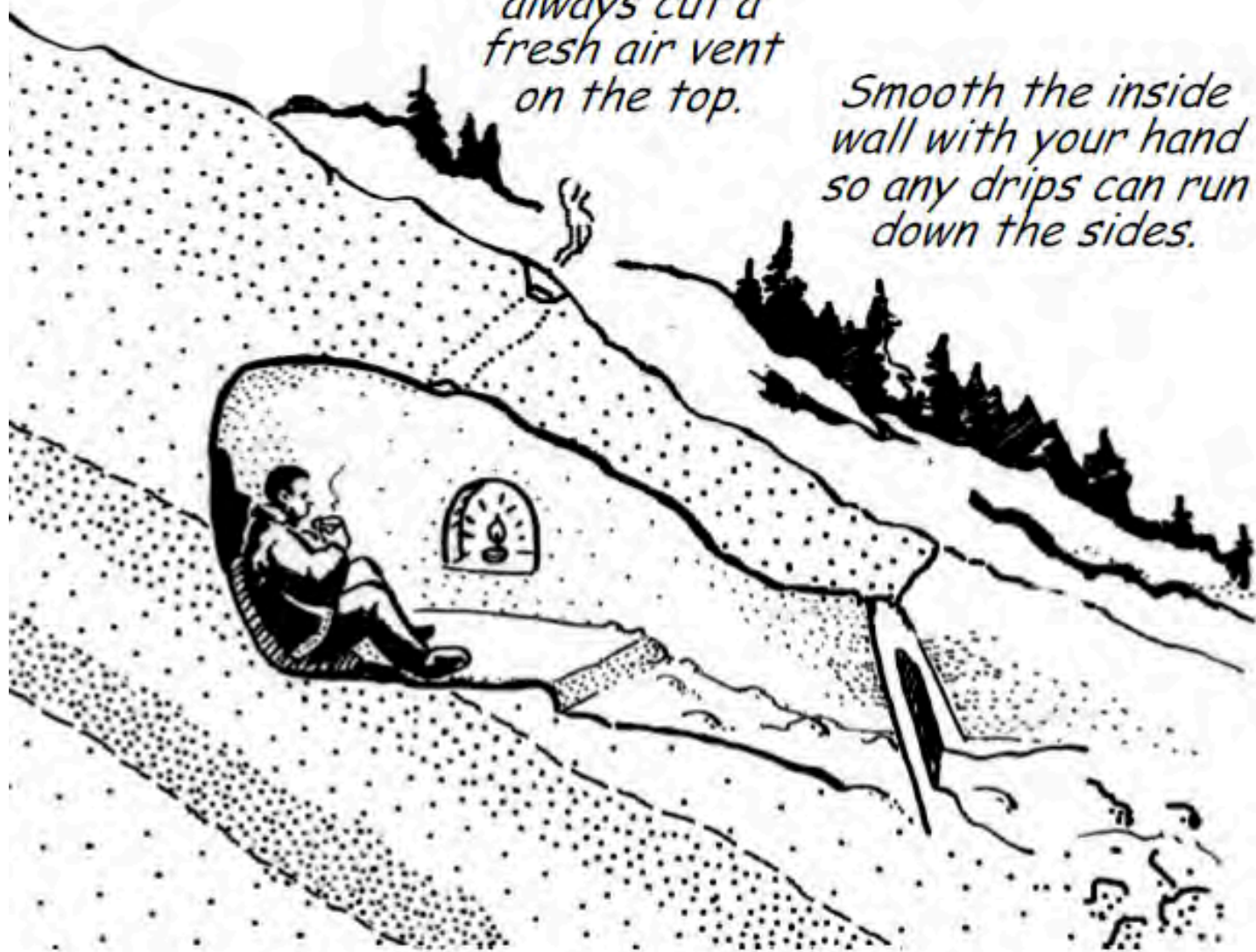
*Throw debris downhill*

*Locate on a steep and stable slope*

Locate the door on the steepest part of the slope where you have plenty of room to dig upwards and inwards and throw the debris downhill. Start by shoveling past the soft surface snow to make a narrow trench ending where your door will be.

*You must always cut a fresh air vent on the top.*

*Smooth the inside wall with your hand so any drips can run down the sides.*



*Several candles will provide ample warmth and light at night.*

*Position the door lower than the floor to trap warmth inside.*

As with any outdoor endeavor, proper equipment is critical to your comfort, success and enjoyment. Stay comfortable by staying dry and warm. Dress in layers that can be easily removed as you heat up.

*waterproof exterior layer so you stay dry while moving snowblocks*

*pants or gaiters that keep snow out of waterproof boots*



*hat/hood  
gauntlet  
mittens/gloves  
to keep snow  
out*

**Warning:** You should not depend solely on the information in this booklet for your personal safety. Your personal safety depends on your own good judgement, based on competent instruction, a reasonable level of experience and a realistic assessment of your ability to work with snow. There are no warranties, either expressed or implied, that this book of instructions contains accurate and reliable information. There are no warranties that the YangFang is fit for a particular purpose. Your use of this booklet and the YangFang Snowtool is at your own risk, acknowledging the inherent danger of working with the snow.

**WWW.SNOWSAW.COM**

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in Portland, Oregon USA  
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