



When we picture a wintry landscape and think about the people living there, igloos are usually the first dwelling option that comes to mind. While they might seem like extensions of the ice and snow, these shelters are actually quite useful and convenient for keeping their inhabitants out of the cold.

Igloos are commonly associated with the Inuit hunters, who would build igloos as a temporary shelter from their hunting trips. Here are some other interesting facts about these natural sanctuaries:



Inuit hunters can usually build an igloo in less than an hour!

Igloos provide shelter to those who need it, as well as warmth from the cold outside. Snow acts as an insulator of heat from various sources. The chief one here is human heat, with the others being generated from oil lamps or small wood fires for cooking.

The igloo walls also provide shelter from the wind. Plus, the inside of an igloo can even reach about 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

After a few days of occupation, the inside of an igloo will understandably start to melt a little bit. When the occupants go outside, that melted snow will freeze and turn to ice. This gradual process slowly turns a snow igloo into an icy structure. This is actually a good thing, as it means the igloo becomes a stronger structure and has more warmth inside.

Some igloos would feature windows to let in some light. It is good to include a window if you're planning to stay inside for some time, especially on sunny days. A good window typically has a seal skin or a pelt of a caribou, which you can use as a sort of curtain when the wind gets too much. If you simply want the window as a way to let the light in, you can use a block of ice like a glass pane.