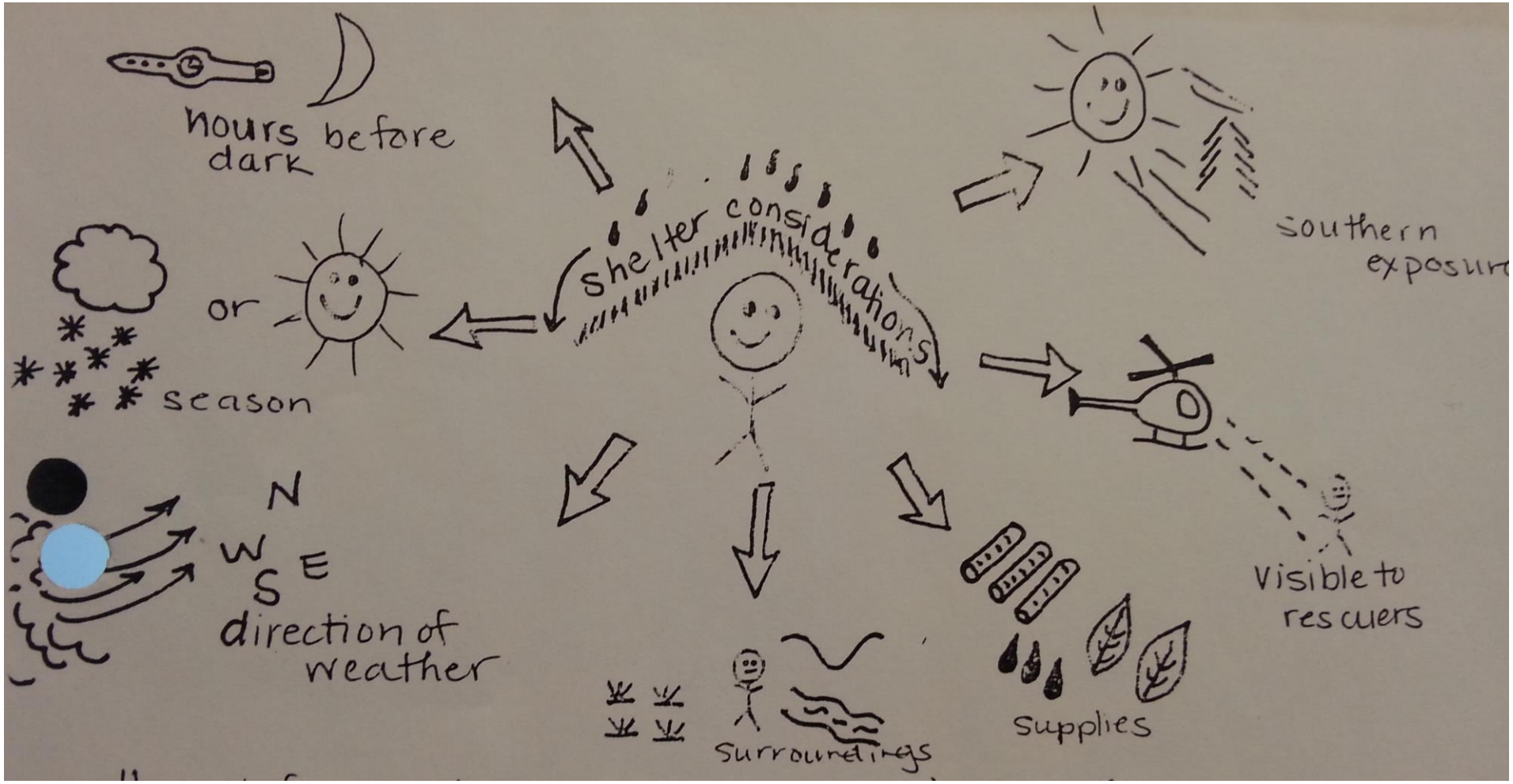
OUTDOOR EDUCATION: SHELTERS

BEFORE YOU BUILD YOUR SHELTER YOU SHOULD CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:



HOURS BEFORE DARK

- Close to dark = build something easy

SEASON

Summer =

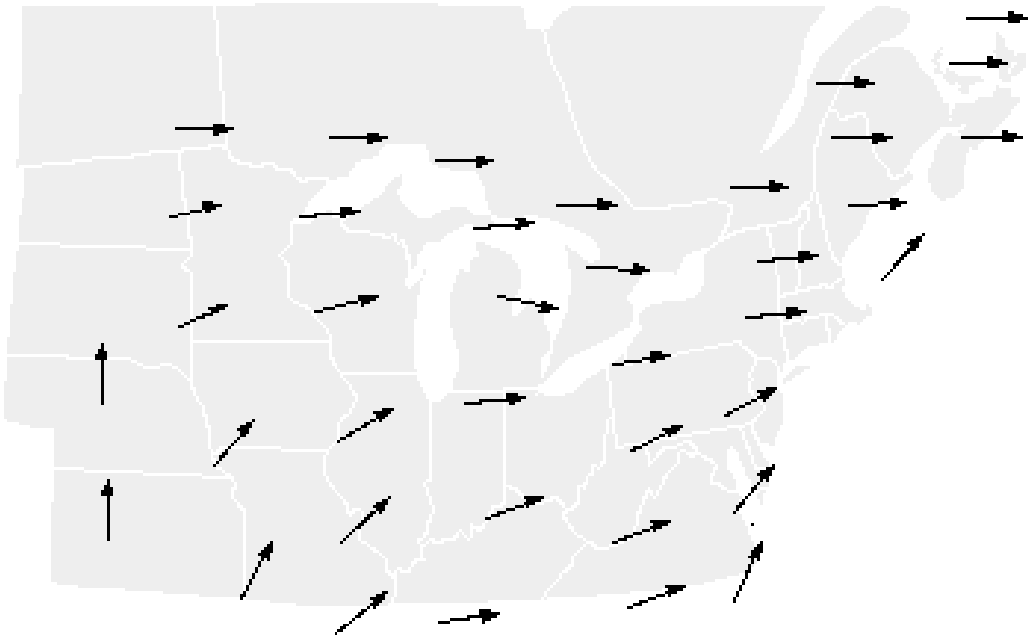
- **Higher ground lets you cool off (rain proof, close to water)**

Winter =

Lower ground stays warmer (insulated)

DIRECTIONS OF WEATHER –

- where the opening should face, main support, etc.



SURROUNDINGS –

- **River? Valley? Swamp?**

SUPPLIES =

- food, fuel, etc.

VISIBLE -

- **to rescuers instead of under bushes**

LONGEST SOUTHERN EXPOSURE –

- **for sun to heat and dry the shelter**

WHERE TO AVOID BUILDING YOUR SHELTER

1. Dry gullies and river beds – Flooding
2. Thick woods – hard to dry
3. Pebble ground – uncomfortable, hard to put in stakes (Good to keep heat, good drainage)
4. Strong Winds
5. Animal runs
6. Near bees and hornets (they'll try to build in shelter)
7. Avalanches

NATURES NATURAL SHELTERS:

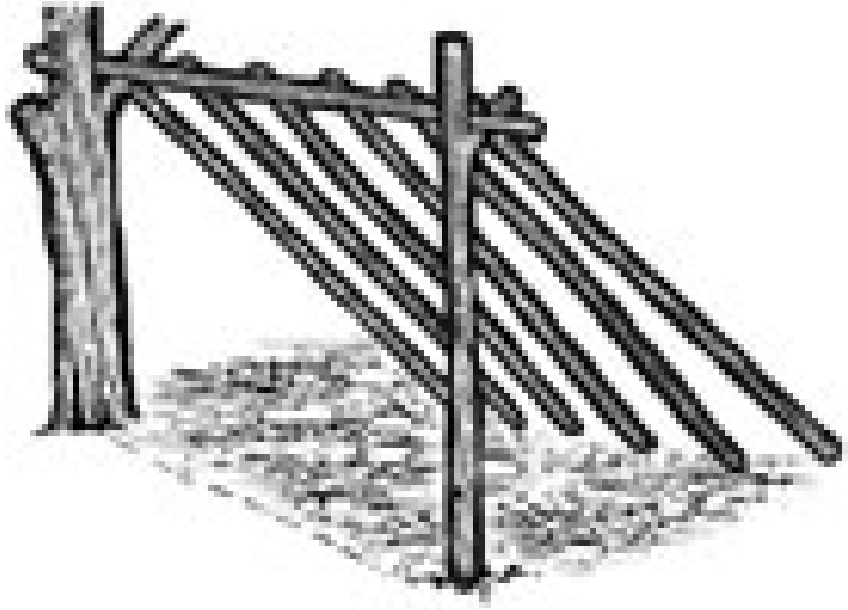
- Snow banks (drifts), root systems of fallen trees, caves

BUILDING A SURVIVAL SHELTER FROM NATURAL MATERIALS. – LEAN-TO

- If building a survival shelter is possible a lean-to shelter is probably the easiest and quickest type of wilderness shelter to build. A lean-to shelter is suitable for most terrain. Always build this type of wilderness shelter with its back to the prevailing wind.

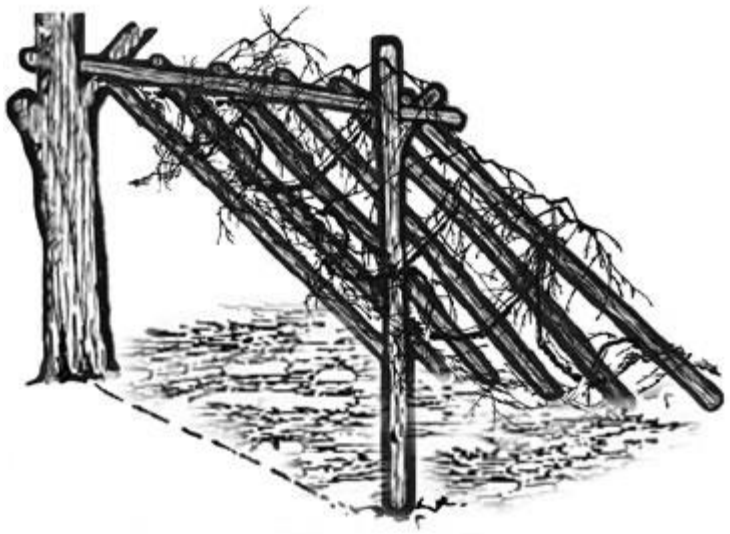
HOW TO BUILD – LEAN-TO

- Place two Y-shaped sticks in the ground about 30 cm (1 foot) down, so they stand about 1 meter (3 feet) high. Take a long branch about 2 meters (6 feet), as a ridge pole. Lay the ridge pole between the two forks.



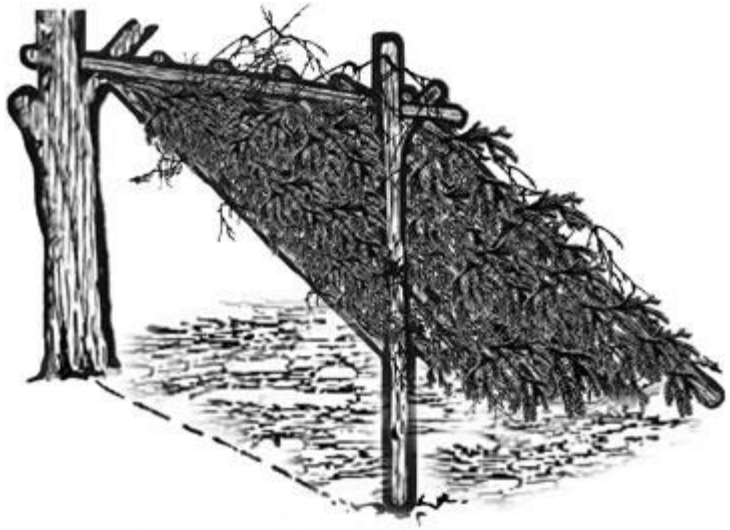
HOW TO BUILD – LEAN-TO

- Now fill in the roof area with other straight sticks tied at the top and buried in the ground. You now have the skeleton of the structure .



HOW TO BUILD – LEAN-TO

- Finally you must cover the skeleton with whatever material is available – for example: Grass, bracken and large leaves. Always start at the bottom of the structure and work up upwards when thatching, so that if it rains the water will run over the joints and will not leak through on to you.



HOW TO BUILD – DOUBLE LEAN-TO OR A-FRAME

- Find a sturdy pole around 1.5 – 2 times your height,
- This will be the main beam of your height.
- Or you can find a fallen tree that will fit to build your hut.

HOW TO BUILD – DOUBLE LEAN-TO OR A-FRAME

- Look for something to hold the main beam of the hut off the ground. A rock, stump, tree with a forked branch, anything strong enough can be used for this support.
- Height – A little taller than you sitting.

HOW TO BUILD – DOUBLE LEAN-TO OR A-FRAME

- Lean small poles against both sides of your main beam at about a 45 degree angle to a make a framework. Place them close together and fill in around them with smaller branches.

HOW TO BUILD – DOUBLE LEAN-TO OR A-FRAME

- Cover the framework with materials at hand. Dead leaves, dry fern, evergreen branches, grass, use whatever you can find.
- Once you have sufficient debris in place, you will need to place a layer of small, light branches over the outside of the hut to keep all of your materials from blowing away.

HOW TO MAKE AN A-FRAME SHELTER VIDEO

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mN3K8SsheyE

ACTIVITY.

- In your groups, plan out how you are going to build your structure.
  - Information:
  - - 4 hours before dark
  - - Early June
  - - It may be 3 days or more before rescue
  - - The top of the picture is North and the bottom is South.
  - - The weather forecast is light rain overnight.
  -
  - Materials
  - - 1 Bowie knife
  - - Each Person has a water bottle
  - - 1 Water filter
  - - 1 pack of matches
  - - 10 Granola Bars
  - - Anything you currently have in your pockets right now
  - - The clothing you are wearing right now