

Snow Snake:

From: http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ks/pdf/awg_e.html

The goal of this game is to throw your snow snake the farthest along a groomed snow track. To start, make a clear track for the snow snake to travel along: build a long snowbank, about 1 metre high and 1 metre wide, and 100 metres long. (You can make it longer or shorter depending on how much space you have available.) Carve a long track in the pile, about 6 inches wide, and smooth it over thoroughly. If possible, water it for an icy surface.

The goal of the snow snake game is to throw your snow snake - a carved stick of hardwood - Now, you need a snow snake - traditionally, a snake is carved out of a straight stick of hardwood about 1.5 metres long and five to 10 cm in diameter at the large end. The bark is stripped off and the snake's head is marked off on the large end to measure about five to 10 cm in length. The rest of the stick is about three cm in diameter. The head of the snake should curve up like a ski. In the past, the snakes were carved and highly decorated on the non-sliding surfaces of the snake. For a quick version of a snow snake, try using an old hockey stick with the bottom cut off and carve one end so that it curves upwards slightly. This will help the snake move along the snowy track. If you want, take some time to make carvings and painted decorations on your snake.

To play, take turns with your opponents in throwing the stick down the track. If you want to play as a team, the person who throws the farthest in each round scores a point for his or her team. An additional point goes to the team with the player who has made the longest throw of the whole game. Athletes at the Arctic Games can throw their snow snakes over 90 metres. Do you think you can match their throws?

From http://www.snowsnakeracers.com/page/1djr6/About_Snowsnakes.html

What is a snowsnake? Long ago and some American Indians living today in the snow belts of North America make gamepieces - snowsnakes - to play the game - snowsnake. The game's objective is distance: Whoever propels his snake down a snow covered path the farthest a certain number of times wins the prize. Early American Indians played the game for entertainment as well as to sharpen their hunting skills. Everything your group needs to play the game is in the Snowsnake Derby Racer Kit. Each kit contains identical (natural) materials for an equal start. As excitement for game day builds, it moves your group right through the unit. How do I know? I worked for ten years as a museum educator, and I played this game with thousands of groups. **You don't need a snow covered path to play - a plastic "ice" path works outside and a gym or hallway floor works inside.**

