

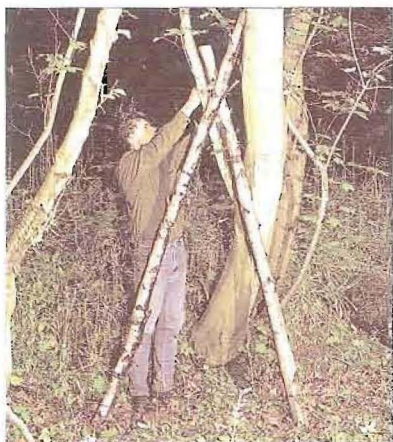


TROPICAL SHELTERS

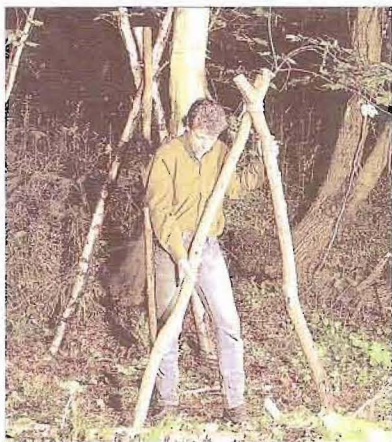
THE REGION BETWEEN the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, about 23 degrees north and south of the equator, is known as the tropics. Within this region are rainforests, swamps, and savannah (grasslands), and all are characterized by lush vegetation, torrential rain, and abundant animal life. Shelter from the rain, wind, and sun is very important in every kind of tropical area. In the

mountain rainforests, it can get quite cold at night. In jungles and swamps, you must sleep off the ground – preferably high enough to allow small animals to pass beneath you and to ensure that torrential rain does not constantly splash you as it hits the ground. A waterproof roof and mosquito net are vital. Sleeping above the ground is not as important in tropical grasslands as in jungle areas.

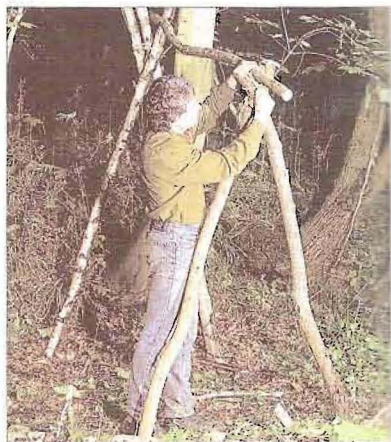
A-FRAME SHELTER



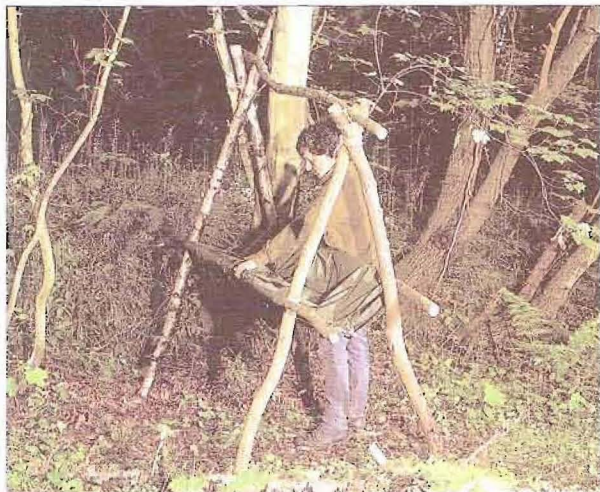
1 An A-frame shelter is the easiest type of shelter to construct. Cut seven long branches and lash two of them to a tree.



2 Make a second A-frame and set it at a distance of about 2 ft (60 cm) longer than your height from the first one.



3 Place a lightweight branch across the two top V's of the A-frames. This will act as a ridge pole to support the roof.



4 Tie the sides of a groundsheet together to make a tube. Insert two long poles and pull them apart to make a stretcher. Wedge the stretcher between the A-frames with the poles on the outside.



5 Stretch a waterproof tarpaulin across the ridge pole to make a roof. Pull it tight on either side and tie it to trees. The roof should keep off rain, yet still allow air to circulate around your head.