National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

170 Mile Creek Road Grand Portage, MN 55605



aagim (snowshoe) nabagidaabaan (toboggan)

Toboggans and snowshoes originate in northern snow country. The word toboggan comes from the Anishinaabemowin words: nabagi (flat) and odaabaan (sled). Native people used these sleds, often pulled by dogs, to move their belongings oversnow. A pair of dogs could pull a load between 200-500 pounds for 20 miles in five hours.

The Northmen of the fur trade depended on aagim (snowshoes) to get around during the long winters, made by Native women in the villages where they built trading posts.



