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*Floating Shoes*

The idea behind this experiment came from the abundant amount of snow Colorado receives every winter. Being able to move quickly over snow sounded fun, but the price of snowshoes looked too expensive. The hope was to discover a cheaper snowshoe that would still work. To make sure that the experimenter would not be affected by ground contour, a 20 by 20 square foot area was measured off so that the snow depth would be constant. As a control the subjects first took ten steps with nothing but tennis shoes to see how much they would normally sink. Then each subject tried on each pair of shoes and took ten steps. Upon reaching the tenth step, the subjects put down their full weight and then measured the depth of compression with a ruler. The results were significant when compared to the control. Although the fresh snow was difficult to walk on even with snowshoes, they did prove to keep the subjects higher above the ground. The smallest snowshoes kept each subject three to four inches above the control depth, while the largest snowshoes kept the subjects nine to ten inches above the control depth. The home-made snowshoes also worked much better than anticipated. All but one of our hypotheses was proven. The only one that failed was that material would not affect depth. The final results were exciting because they were not expected to be as successful as they turned out to be.