Native American Pit Oven

The Activity:
Build a pit oven on an activity or camp

Activity Type: 
Patrol Activity
Troop Activity

Roles:
Activity Leaders
Quartermasters
Cooks

The Crean Award:
Discovery:
Patrol Activity
Skills

Terra Nova:
Task/Role in Patrol
Patrol Activity
Skills

Endurance:
Planning
Develop Teamwork

Polar:
Patrol Activity
Skills

SPICES
Physical
Intellectual
Social
Plan

Introduction
This is a type of slow burning oven used by native American Indians that allows the efficient use of firewood. It is best created in a small bank or can be built as shown on level ground.

Fire lighting and cooking skills are required.

Food will need to be prepared

A shovel will also be required to dig the pit for the fire.

You will need:-
• Selection of food to be cooked – beef or fish, vegetables
• Tinfoil
• Cabbage leaves
• Saw for cutting fire wood
• Shovel for digging pit
• Wide pipe
• Light twigs, ferns or tinfoil for cover
Do

**Step One**
Dig a pit 2ft deep and 1ft x 1ft wide with a trench for the pipe. Or if building it into a bank of soil create a tunnel and flute hole.

**Step Two**
Light fire inside the pit and let it burn for about 30 minutes.
Do

Step Three
While the fire is burning weave a lid for the pit out of the bamboo and greenery.

Step Four
Place meat wrapped in tin foil on the fire (Like your standard foil cooking).

Step Five
Cover the pit with the lid leaving a little trench or space for the pipe.

Step Six
Build up a mound on top of the lid. Be sure not to obstruct the pipe.
Do

**Step Seven**
Feed the fire with small sticks via the pipe.

**Step Eight**
Let meat cook for about 40 minutes to an hour.

**Step Nine**
Dig up the meat carefully.

**Step Ten**
Clean up and remember to Leave No Trace!
Patrol Review

Did you successfully build the oven?

What was the hardest and easiest part?

Do you need to practice your fire lighting or cooking with foil skills more?

What did you learn from it?

What SPICES are relevant?
Check them off on the next page
### Review SPICES

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