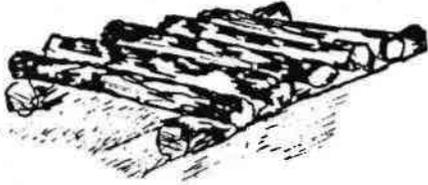
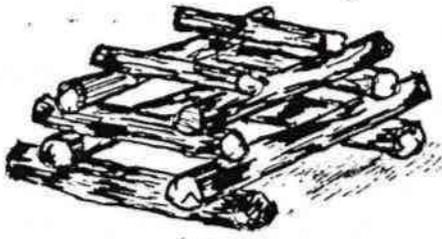


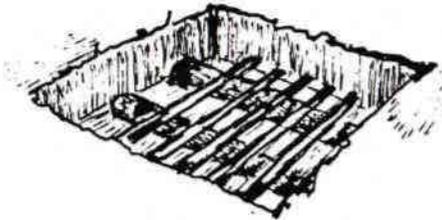
There are five basic types of fire. The star fire is a simple cooking fire. As the fire burns away in the middle so the sticks are pushed inwards. This kind of fire is easy to control and gives enough heat to cook by. The American Indians particularly used this kind of fire.



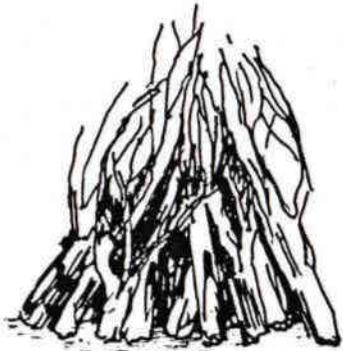
The parallel log fire is a carefully built cooking fire. The heat it produces can be easily regulated by putting the logs together or pulling them apart.



The Pagoda fire built of sticks in the shape of a Chinese pagoda is another kind of beacon fire. It burns very fast with lots of flames and smoke.



The pit log fire is exactly like the parallel fire except that it is built in a shallow rectangular pit. Of all fires this is the easiest and safest to use. It can be put out very quickly by covering it with earth.



The one we know best is the simple bonfire where sticks and twigs are piled into a rough heap. This is sometimes called a pyramid fire from its shape. Although used today for getting rid of rubbish it has been used as a beacon fire.

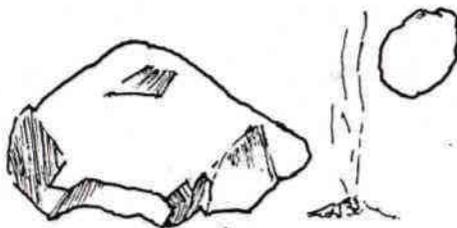
Man & Fire



ALL FIRE IS DANGEROUS
NEVER PLAY WITH FIRE ON YOUR OWN

MAN and FIRE

Civilisation really began when man controlled fire and began to use it for his own benefit. By using fire mankind became quite different from all other life forms on earth. How he started we don't really know. Perhaps he collected it from a volcano, perhaps from a natural forest fire. Whichever way it was he quickly learned how to create it for himself. Striking sparks from flint into a dry tinder was an easy way which perhaps was learned from watching the sparks from a forest fire making fresh fire in the dry underbrush. Later sticks were rubbed together very quickly allowing the friction to start the wood smouldering. Soon the fire stick and bow drill were used. In fact these three methods were used for thousands of years until the recent past with the invention of matches.



Fire was important for many reasons. First it gave protection because all wild animals are frightened of fire. We can imagine early man huddled around his fire outside his cave dwelling. Next it was important for cooking the meat of the animals killed in the hunt. Man's teeth were never as well adapted for eating raw meat as the other animal hunters. It was also important for warmth.



Fire has always been worshipped in one way or another. In nearly every religion there is a god of fire, the Greeks worshipped Hephaestus, the Romans Vulcan. Fire increased in importance as man realised it could be used to change things around him. When he began to farm, he used it to burn down trees and make clear areas for fields. He realised that it changed clay into pottery and, most important of all, he discovered he could use fire to make metal. How he discovered this we are not sure, most probably by accident.