



Tied in knots



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Activity

Learning to tie simple lashings and knots is an essential skill for shelter building and many other aspects of woodland craft.

Before you go:

Research different types of knots and their uses.

What do you need?

A supply of sticks or a woodland with enough dead sticks for each child.
Metre long pieces of rope suitable for tying knots (finish the ends of nylon ropes by burning lightly).
Implements to cut rope.

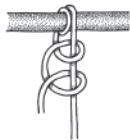
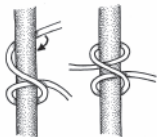
Clove hitch

The clove hitch is a useful knot for beginning lashings.

Start by asking each child to find a stick. Then provide each with a piece of rope. Next make a pair of spectacles with the rope, then 'fold' the spectacles by putting one 'eye frame' behind the other. Slide the double loop onto the stick and tighten.

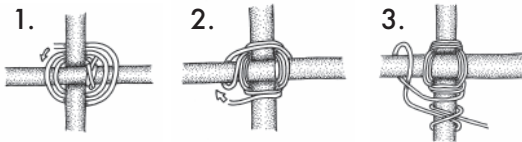


This is a clove hitch tied round a post:



Here is a round turn and two half hitches (half hitches are useful for finishing off lashings neatly)

Square lashing is useful for shelter building and making camp equipment.



Begin with a clove hitch and then lash the string alternately above and below both sticks.

After 3-4 circuits make a full turn around one stick and circuit the string a couple of times between the two sticks going above and below different sticks from stage 1.

Finish off with a round turn and a clove hitch.

Follow-up

Look into how rope is made. Tie decorative knots. Find out about the breaking strengths of different rope and the safety factors to be considered for different activities.