

Beavers My Outdoors Challenge Badge

Learn How To Tie Three Simple Knots

Shipwrecked[©]

By Samantha Eagle

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WARNING

If you are using a colour printer and do not intend to print in colour you must change your print settings to “Greyscale” if you don’t do this the pictures will not print clearly (your print settings are found in the print dialog box).

Overview

For this task the children will pretend they are shipwrecked on an island and need to tie some different knots to help them with a few things whilst they are there. I suggest that once you’ve tried these knots at your meeting place that you try to recreate the activity whilst on your camp/sleepover.

Preparation Before The Meeting

1. Each leader/helper should learn the three knots used in this activity. On the next page you will find links to pictures, animations and videos teaching you how tie the knots
2. Print out the ‘Knots’ handout you need one between two children

Materials Needed for Each Team of Four

- 1 x Chair
- 2 x stuffed dogs with a collar and lead already around his neck (it’s optional that the collar is a rope but the lead must be rope and long enough for you to use to tie around a chair leg using a ‘Round turn and two half hitch’ knot
- A piles of branches for firewood or something similar
- Knecker **each**
- Some very small clothes ideally dolls clothes scattered around the island or you can use any material. Each child will need one piece
- 2 x pieces of thinnish smooth rope

Preparation At The Meeting

1. As mentioned above the children have been shipwrecked on an island so you need to set out the different parts of the Island that each team of four will go to when you start the activity
2. Prepare the **dogs** with a collar and lead for each team which you will hold for them to take to their island
3. Each part of the island should have a **chair** placed in the middle
4. Leave two pieces of **rope** at each island
5. Lay out piles of **branches** around the room away from each island. Each team will go collect them for their fire
6. Scattered the clothes around the islands

When Demonstrating Tying Knots

1. Firstly it’s really important that you as a leader are proficient at tying the knots used in this activity before you start. Because it will be difficult for the children to learn if they are not

shown a clear/confident demonstration. I have put links to videos for each knot below to help you. Don't be afraid yourself to ask for other leaders help in this activity

2. Knots are best observed if the student can look over the leaders shoulder or some similar perspective rather than straight on
3. For some knots when possible use two cords of different colours, this helps the student see the structure of the knot
4. If you are teaching a group, use the largest rope practical in order to be easily seen

Videos for Leaders to learn the knots

If you cannot click on the links click and drag over them and press the Ctrl and C keys to copy the link. Then go to an empty browser and press the Ctrl and V keys to paste it into your browser.

Round Turn And Two Half Hitch

Video and pictures very clear

<http://www.survivalworld.com/knots/round-turn-2-half-hitches.html#.VY1lsM9sFBc>

<http://www.animatedknots.com/roundturn/index.php?Categ=boating>

There is a great animation at the bottom of this page and some clear pictures.

<http://www.boatsafe.com/marlinespike/round.htm>

Timber Hitch

<http://www.animatedknots.com/timber/>

This is an animation you will find it near the bottom of the page

<http://www.angelfire.com/ia3/camping2/knots.htm#roundturntwohalfhit>

Good animation

http://www.netknots.com/rope_knots/timber-hitch/

Reef or Square Knot

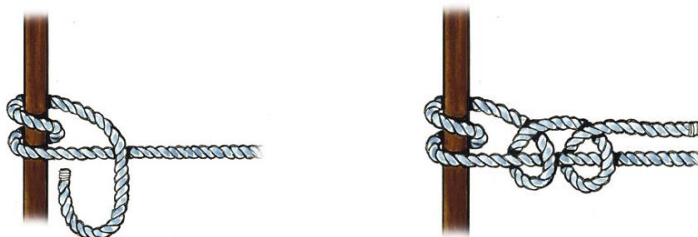
<http://www.animatedknots.com/reef/>

Good animation

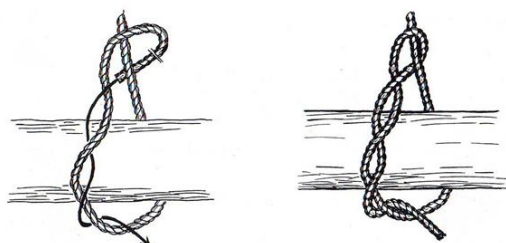
http://www.netknots.com/rope_knots/square-knot

Directions/Leader Speak

1. **Speak** - The next task you need to do for your 'My Outdoors Challenge Award' is to learn how to tie three simple knots. There are many different types of knots you can learn. We are going to look at a couple that will be useful if you are hiking or camping. As you progress throughout scouting you will learn more
2. **Speak** - Now depending on what situation you are in will depend on what type of knot you need. Today you have all been **shipwrecked** and are on an **island** with a few friends and your two dogs! When your ship went down you managed to grab some bits to take to shore with you
3. **Speak** - I want you all to get into teams of four and go stand in one of the parts of the island that I have set out, take your two dogs with you
4. **Action** - Hand each team their 2 fluffly dogs
5. **Speak** - You think you may be here for quite some time so you decide to make a little home for you and your friends
6. **Direction** – Assign a leader or helper to each team
7. **Speak** – Firstly you need to collect some firewood to make a fire but you don't want your **dogs** to get lost so you need to tie him to a post. He has his collar and lead already on
8. **Speak** – To tie the dog lead to a post you would use a knot called a "Round turn and two half hitch" – Everyone gather and stand behind me now while I show you how to tie this knot. Before I do this here's a picture of the knot



9. **Action** – Hand out the Knot handout for two children sharing. Now using the leg of the chair demonstrate how to tie the dog using a '**Round turn and two half hitch**' knot. Demonstrate this a couple of times
10. **Action** – Now send each team back to their island with a leader/helper and get one child to try this at the same time on a leg of the chair following the leader. Then the next child will have a go. The other three children should observe
11. **Speak** - Okay great it's quite difficult when you first start tying knots but with practice it will get easier. But at least now your dogs won't run off and get lost on the island
12. **Speak** - Now you're going to go off and find some firewood so we can cook some fish for dinner. To make it easier to carry the branches that we find back to our part of the island we can tie them together using a knot called the 'Timber Hitch'. This is the second knot on your handout

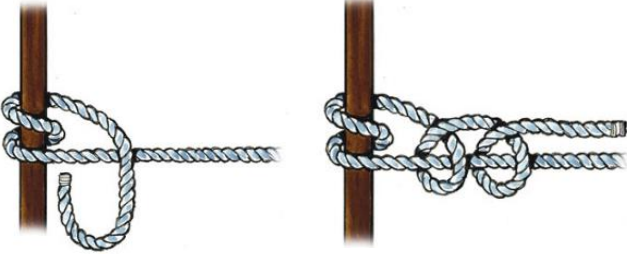
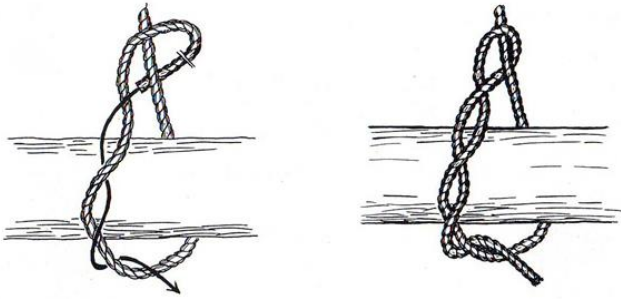


13. **Speak** - I want you now in your teams to go off and with a piece of rope and find a pile of branches
14. **Action** - Now demonstrate to everyone how tie the 'Timber Hitch'. Once you've done that get each child in each team to tie their own knot with the help of their leader/helper. The leader should untie it each time for the next child to try it. Then the leader will lead them back to their island with their firewood
15. **Speak** - Brilliant now we can start a fire ready to cook some food for dinner. Before we do this though you need to untie your dogs and let them have a little run around then tie them back up because they are too near where you are going to light the fire.
16. **Action** – Demonstrate the 'Round turn and two half hitch' knot again and get each child to tie the dog back to the chair but move the chair into a different position
17. **Speak** - Now your dogs are safe you can layout your pile of sticks for your fire
18. **Speak** – When you were shipwrecked you found your clothes scattered all over the island. What you need to do now is to gather your clothes fold them neatly and tie them up into your necker using a 'Reef Knot' also known as a square knot. This knot is well known for not being very secure so should only be used for tying up a bundle of light items or tying your arm up into a sling should you hurt yourself while hiking or camping. This is the third knot on your handout



19. **Action** – Demonstrate how to tie a reef knot around your parcel. Use a piece of clothing wrapped in a necker and use two points of the necker to tie a reef knot
20. **Speak** – I want everyone to go to collect an item of clothing and fold it up neatly then wrap it in your necker now tuck the one pointed end onto the clothes and bring the other two ends together to tie a Reef knot around your parcel of clothes
21. **Action** – Get them to untie their parcel and try it again
22. **Direction** – Get each team to sit around their pretend campfire and handout some treat snacks for doing so well
23. **Direction** – While they are enjoying their snacks ask them in teams of two to fill in the third column of their Knots handout

Knots

		Write the uses here...
What did you use this Knot For...	'Round Turn & Two Half Hitch' 	
What did you use this Knot For...	'Timber Hitch' 	
What did you use this Knot For...	'Reef Knot' (Square Knot) 	