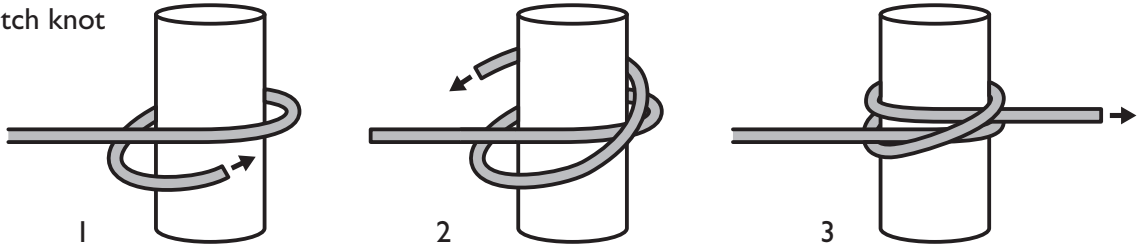
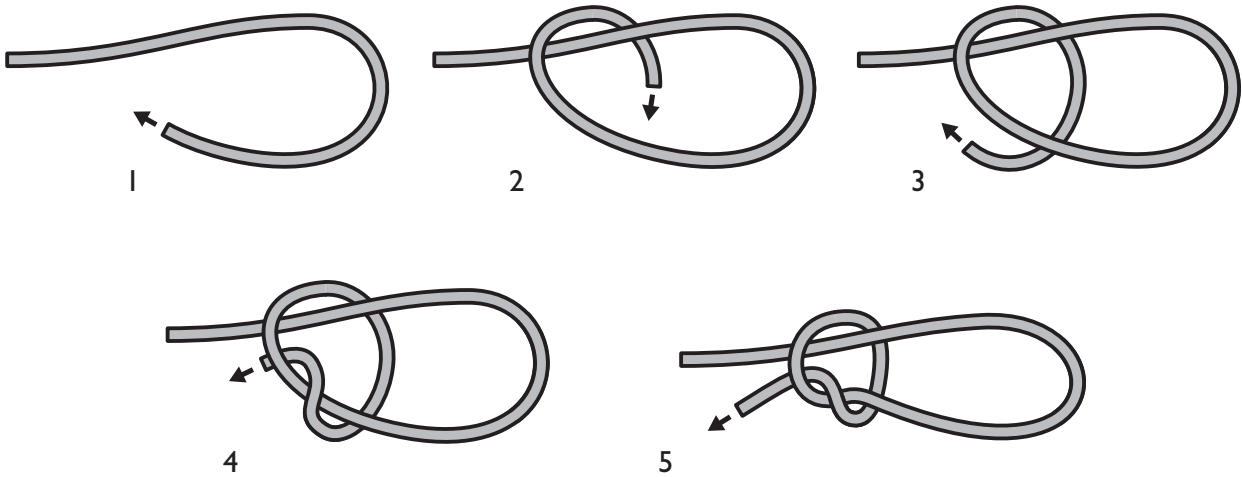


Making knots

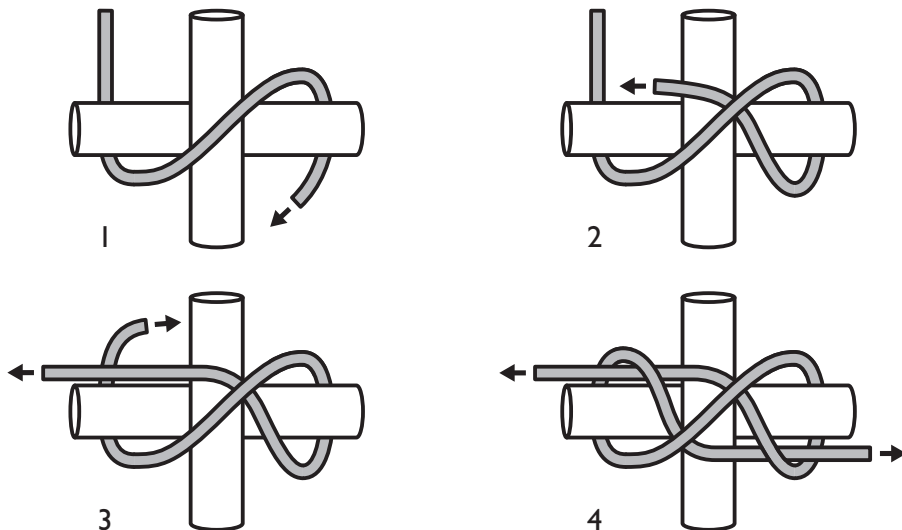
Clove hitch knot



Snare knot



Transom knot



Making knots

Objectives

- To learn that Stone Age people were capable of intricate work that needed the skilful use of the fingers.

Cross-curricular links

Design and technology

- 3c** Recognise that the quality of a product depends on how well it is made and how well it meets its intended purpose.
- 4a** How the working characteristics of a material affect the way that it is used.

Resources

Each child or group will need a piece of string about 30cm in length, two pencils preferably with six flat sides (prevents rolling), a copy of worksheet **7** (page 44).

You will need a stick of celery and fibres cut from about a 10cm length of celery. Teacher helpers.

Before the lesson you and your helpers should practise tying the knots on the worksheet. Begin by making big loops as you tie and loop the string very slowly.

Starter

Ask the children how many of them can tie knots. Get them to demonstrate their skills. Tell the children that in the Stone Age, people made plant fibres into strings and ropes. Show the children a stick of celery and the fibres you have cut from them. Tie a simple knot in the fibres and say that Stone Age people used larger fibres and give out the string. Tell the children that they are living in the Stone Age and are going to be taught how to tie knots.

Main activities

- Issue the worksheet and one pencil. Tell the children that they are going to tie a knot, which might have been used to tie a string to a fishing line. Show the children how to tie the clove hitch knot, then help them do it.
- Move onto the noose knot or, if you prefer, call it the snare knot because it is believed to have been used for setting animal snares. Show the children how to tie it and tighten it, then help them do it.
- Finally move onto the transom knot and issue a second pencil. Tell the children that this knot can be used to tie poles together to make shelters. Show the children how to tie it and tighten it, then help them do it.

Plenary

Let the children display their knots. Some children may like to demonstrate how quickly and accurately they can make their knots. Remind the children that knot making is a very useful survival skill which is still useful today for people who camp and trek through the wilderness.

Outcomes

The children:

- Develop knot tying skills.
- Appreciate that Stone Age people could perform complicated tasks.