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.

![Clove hitch diagram]

This is a clove hitch tied round a post:

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

1. Begin with a clove hitch and then lash the string alternately above and below both sticks.
2. 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.
3. Finish off with a round turn and a clove hitch.

![Square lashing diagrams]

**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.