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Ropes & Knots

Focus: Talking about an unusual topic.

Vocabulary: See **bold** words.

Activity 1: Read the text below and then practice speaking it:

Ever since man learned to use **strands** of long plant **stems** to hold things in place, he has also learned how to make them longer, stronger and thicker.

Ropes are used for many purposes, such as **mooring** ships in a dockyard. Ropes are probably used more at sea than anywhere else on earth. Sailors have used ropes for thousands of years, especially fishermen, with each use and **varying** length and size of rope serving a different purpose. From thin **twines** and **yarn** to thick **hawsers**. Today however, ropes are made from man-made fibers such as nylon, polyester and kevlar - the same material used in making bullet-proof vests. Mountain climbers use ropes made from nylon because nylon won't snap so easily if the climber has a fall or needs to hang from a rock face for example. Because each rope or twine has its own particular use, many types of knots have been invented. There are knots for joining ropes together called '**bends**' and knots called '**hitches**' that join ropes to an object. When two ropes are joined together side-by-side or have their ends **spliced** and then **woven** together, this is called '**seizing**'. The most common knot used is the '**Overhand Knot**' also known as '**Half Hitch**'. It is often used to tie-up parcels or presents, ribbons and shoe laces and is the most common way to tie something onto a piece of string, such as dry flowers for example.

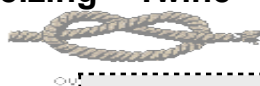


Activity 2: Match the vocabulary with its correct meaning. Which words aren't used?:

Hitch Bend Seizing Twine Splice Braid Weave Stems Mooring



Figure-of-eight knot



Overhand knot



Reef knot



Bow knot

1) To join together.

4) Put together by lashing.

2) Mix together in a pattern.

5) Dreadlocks and beads.

3) Adjoining knots do this.

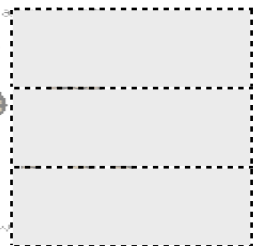
6) To cut in two.



Weave knot



Stems knot



Mooring knot

Write unused vocabulary in your notebook and give their meaning.