



The Hatchet Survival Guide

Chapter 17

Recommendations: For students in Grades 6-9. Activity can be done inside. Supervision recommended for students working with rope.

Purpose: Accompany reading a novel with learning some real survival skills

Materials:

- The Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
 - Free online pdf (*contains minor typos*) <https://scotland.k12.mo.us/view/637.pdf>
 - Audio:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2Ohm_IIf70o&list=PL3Sfhie5HqArYeT62tW4DV4J-nn-4BBn4&index=10
- Activity Materials will be included with instructions for the specific activities below

Chapter Summary: Brian begins to work on a daring plan to retrieve the bag of emergency supplies from the plane wreck.

Survival Skill 17 –Making Cordage

Several times throughout the novel Brian takes strips of his jacket as makeshift rope –depleting one of the few resources he has. If given time, he might have discovered that you can make your own rope called cordage out of natural materials!

Purpose: Make your own cordage to use as rope in a survival situation.

Materials:

- A natural material such as
 - Long grass (*anything less than 1ft is not very useful*)
 - Soft inner bark (*such as from a cedar tree*)
 - Tall flower stock

How It Works:

Step 1: Gather natural materials. You will need double the amount of material for the length of cordage (ex. 2 feet of cordage needs 4 feet of material).

For environmental ethics it is best to only use dead materials such as from a fallen tree. If these materials prove too brittle and you choose to harvest green, living plants be sure to practice honourable harvest -don't pick from the first plant you see, show gratitude while gathering, and never pick/strip more than 1 in 5 flowers, grasses, trees, etc.

Step 2: Break the natural material down into strips that are ½ -1" wide and as long as you can make them.

Step 3: Many folks then make a standard braid but that takes triple the amount of material for length of cordage and is not a strong. Instead check out this YouTube video to learn how to twist the material together.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3I_ele6Ums&t=28s

This longer video uses the same method but demonstrates making cordage out a variety of sample materials such as bark, grass, flower stocks, etc.

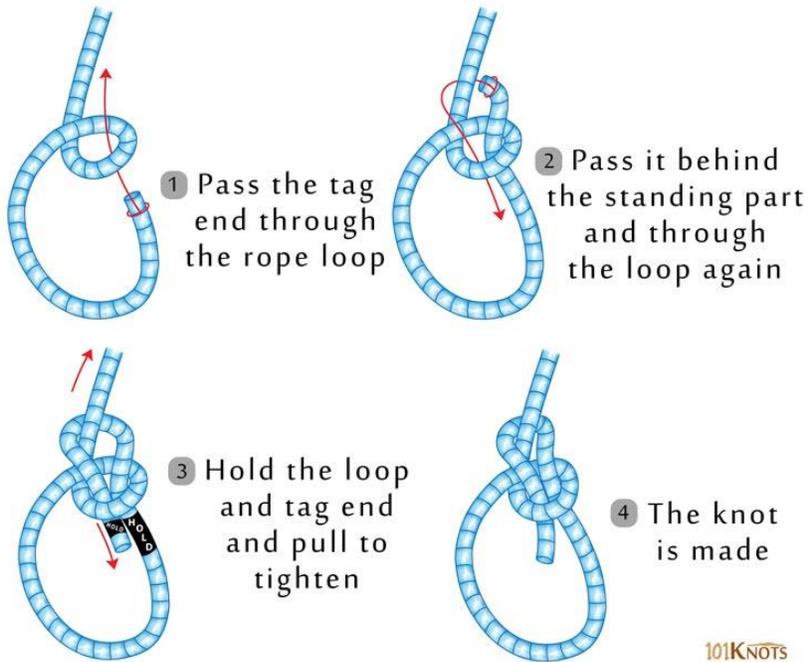
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XG93xPsxeHg>

Step 4: Now that you have cordage, try using it! Maybe tie aspects of your shelter together for central supports or use it to hang the windsock. Learn some specific notes from the diagrams and website shown below:

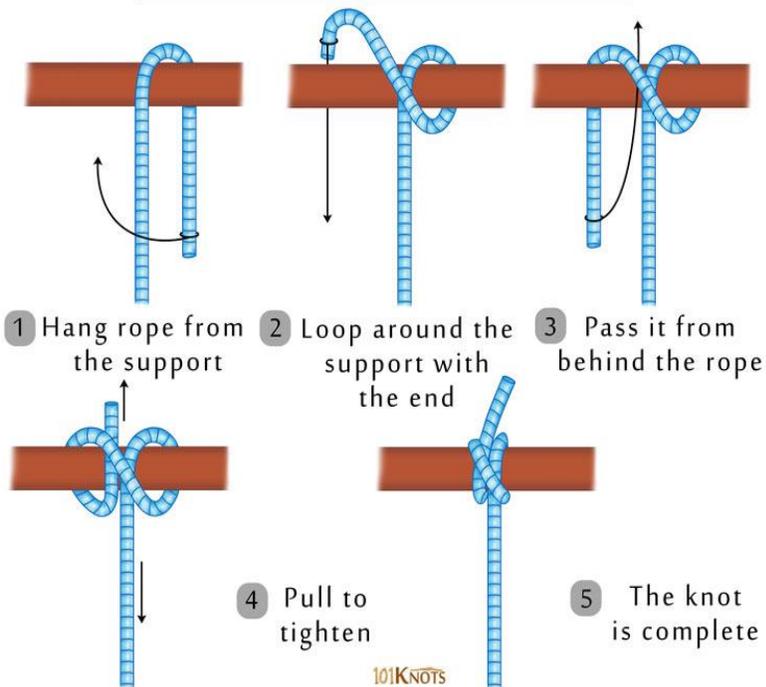
Survival Skill 18 –Tying Knots

While the book never mentions tying any specific knots, it is a very useful skill to have. Below are a few basic knots that you can practice. If the cordage is hard to learn with, try using a strap of rope or a shoelace.

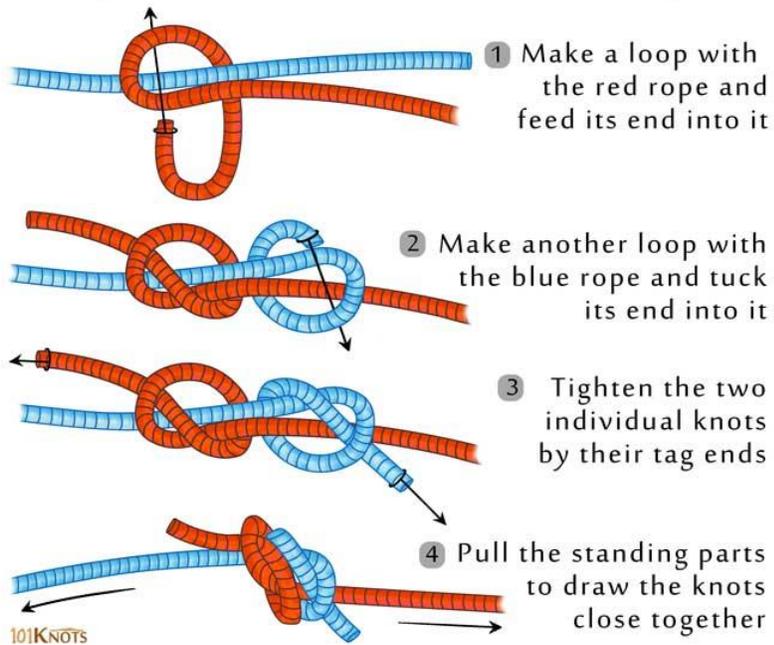
Bowline Knot Directions



Clove Hitch Tutorial



Fisherman's Knot Tying



More knots to learn at <https://www.101knots.com>

See “The Hatchet Chapter 18” on the Gould Lake website for more content