

Rope Making



Your challenge is to make a 1mtr length of rope using skills developed by early man.

When you have made your rope, you can use it to make a shelter to sleep in – more on that later – first, the rope...

Handmade Rope

Early ropes were made by hand – No Tools..! The materials used to make rope from were grown in the soil; yes, Plants, Leaves and Tree Bark.

You may know someone who has a Coir Mat at their front door – Coir is the fibrous outer of a Coconut, a good fibre to make rope from.

There are several world-famous examples of early ropes manufactured by hand from grasses and leaves which were used to make huge world-heritage constructions:

- [Stonehenge](#)
- [Pyramids of Egypt](#)
- [Inca Rope Bridge, Andes](#)

It would have taken a very long time to make the amount of rope needed by hand and many, many, people helping to make the rope – Team work, just as we do in Scouting 😊

Click the link to open a YouTube video to show how to [make rope from Brambles](#).

Brambles may be considered a nuisance, but in reality, brambles support a huge ecosystem ranging from how the soil is used to grown the bramble, to the habitat of insects, rodents, birds and small mammals that live in bramble patches and of course, Blackberries, Yum..!

The video is quite long, so I thought I would offer a few pointers to explain a few things...

- ✿ Wear Garden gloves when working with brambles.
- ✿ Use a dining knife, it is safer than using a sheath knife.
- ✿ Please do not 'pull' or 'hack' a piece of bramble from its roots, use garden secateurs.
- ✿ Please make sure you have permission from the landowner if the brambles are growing on private land.
- ✿ Be gentle with the bramble or you risk damaging the fibres before you can make the rope.
- ✿ When twisting the fibres to make the rope use both hands: One hand to hold the part you have just twisted, and the other hand to twist the next part.
- ✿ Do NOT let go of the rope while you are twisting, or the rope will come undone 😞
- ✿ Tie a piece of bramble core around the end of your rope to prevent the rope from untwisting (or you could use cotton).
- ✿ Good Luck 😊

Survival Shelter

To make a simple Survival Shelter Frame you will need:

- ✿ 2 Sticks of equal length (about 1mtr length)
- ✿ 1 longer stick (about 1.5 to 1.8mtr length)
- ✿ Plastic sheet to cover the frame
- ✿ Rope (the rope you have just made)

- ✿ Lash sticks together at one end to form an 'A' Frame
- ✿ Lash the longer stick to the top of the 'A' Frame
- ✿ Push the bottom ends of the 'A' frame sticks into the ground a bit

- ✿ Cover the frame with the sheet – Use some stones or bricks to hold the edges of the sheet on the ground.

