

Grades: primary

The Farm at Fairplex Rope Making

Before your visit:

- Brainstorm with the children what rope might be used for. Ropes have many uses including: construction, exploration, sports, seafaring, and theatre.
- Ask the students if they have ever made friendship bracelets, paracord bracelets or rubber band bracelets. Tell them that the process for making ropes is very similar. Sometimes a machine is used.
- Explain that a rope is a group of yarns or strands that are twisted or braided together into a larger and stronger form. They can be used for dragging or lifting. Ropes have been used since prehistoric times. The ancient Egyptians developed tools to make rope in 4000 B.C.
- Many types of knots have been invented. Watch a YouTube video that explains step-by-step directions for making a simple knot, and try it with the students.

During your visit:

Find the rope making exhibit at *The Farm*. Try to spin jute twine into a piece of rope. Is this easier or harder than you thought it would be?

After your visit:

Make a jump rope with plastic bags. You will need a bundle of plastic bags (Try to use several different colors), duct tape, scissors, and a chair. Depending upon the age of the student, an adult may need to cut the pieces.

1. Cut the handles off of each bag.
2. Cut each bag open so it becomes one large rectangle.
3. Cut each rectangle into long strips.
4. After cutting three bags into strips, tie the strips together to make a long strip. It should be a little longer than what you want the jump rope to be. Make 12 long strips.
5. Use duct tape to bind six of the strips together, and then tape them onto the back of a chair to hold them.
6. Braid the six strips together into a large braid. Repeat this process with the second group of strips.
7. Tightly twist the two braids together.
8. Use duct tape to make handles on each end of the jump rope.