

Knotting Activity Instructions

Dragonfly

Age range: 2 - 12 years.
Time required: 10 - 20 minutes (depending on ability)
Materials required: 2metres x 3mm polypropylene cord per dragonfly.
Pre-drilled board and pegs.
Scissors
Lighter or matches.



Tying Method

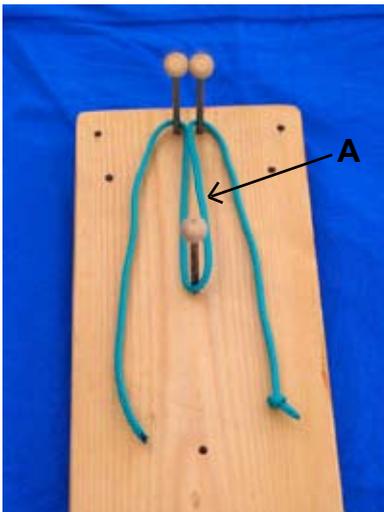


Fig A

The dragonfly is created by making a Solomon's Bar (i.e. a Reef knot continuously made over two parallel cords [A]). To make it easier for children to follow, put a knot in one end of the cord. The two ends will be referred to as knotted or plain. Always start with the knotted end first.

Fig B

Take the knotted cord across the two parallel cords (1). Then take the plain cord downwards over the knotted cord, across beneath the two parallel cords, and then up through the loop left by the knotted cord to come out on top (2).

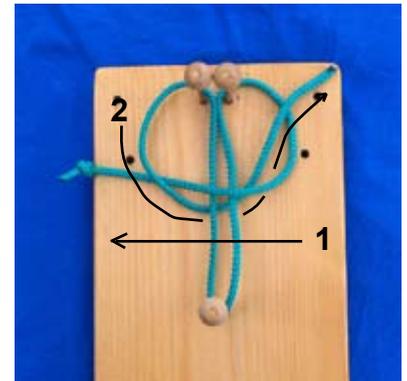


Fig C

Gently pull the two ends to tighten the knot.



Fig D

Repeat the knot by taking the knotted cord across the two parallel cords from the opposite direction (1). Then take the plain cord downwards over the knotted cord, across beneath the two parallel cords and up through the loop left by the knotted cord (2).

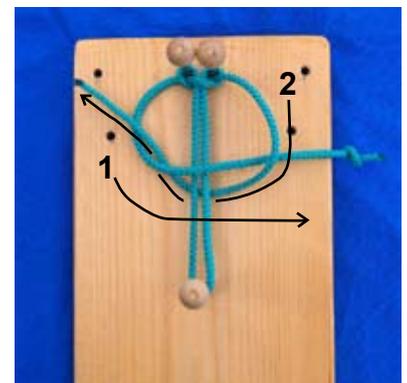


Fig E

Gently pull the two ends to tighten the knot. This is the first stage complete. With slight variations, by repeating this process, the dragonfly is made.

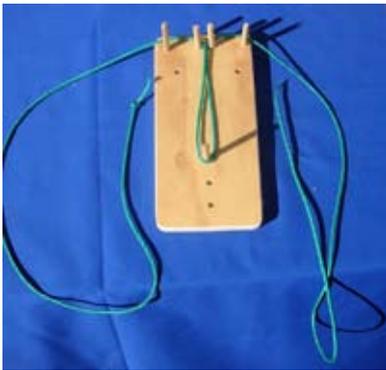




Making the Dragonfly

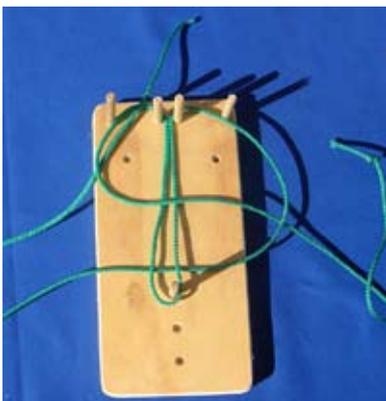
Step 1

Fit the pegs into the board in the positions as shown in the diagram. Place the board on a table so that it faces the child with the single peg at the bottom, as shown



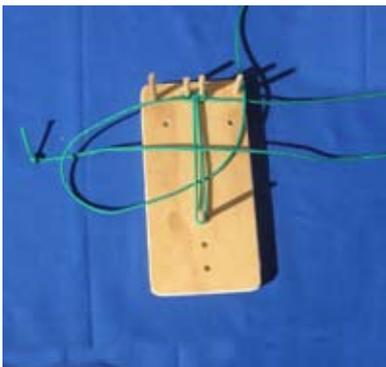
Step 2

Take approximately 2 metres of 3mm diameter cord. Hold the two ends together and find the middle of the cord. Place the middle of the cord over the single peg at the bottom and take the remainder through the two centre pegs at the top of the board. To aid identification between the two ends of the cord, tie a knot in one end. The two ends will be referred to as knotted or plain.



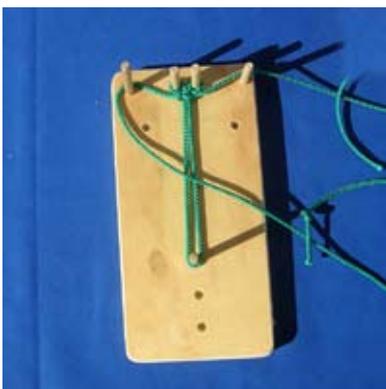
Step 3

Using the method described overleaf in Fig. B, make the first knot, then draw tight. This makes the dragonfly's eyes.



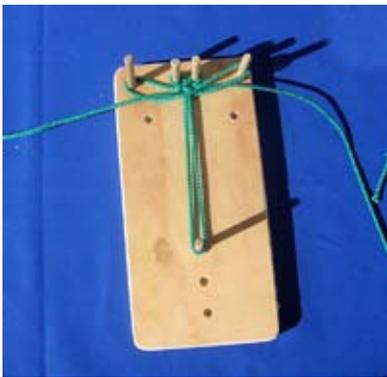
Step 4

Repeat the process and draw tight (Figs D & E). This completes the dragonfly's head.



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Next take the cords around the two outer pegs as shown.



Step 6

Tie the first part of the knot as described overleaf in Fig. B. It may help at this stage if the tutor places a finger over the knot to keep the crossing in place.



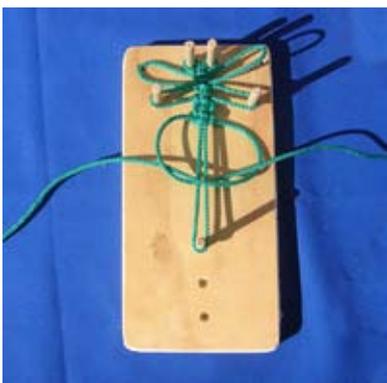
Step 7

Tie another knot using the same process (Fig. D) and draw tight. This completes the first set of wings.



Step 8

Move the two outer pegs to the next holes down. Tie two more knots by the previous method. This completes the dragonfly's wings. Leave the pegs in place at this stage, but push this knot up close to the previous knot



Step 9

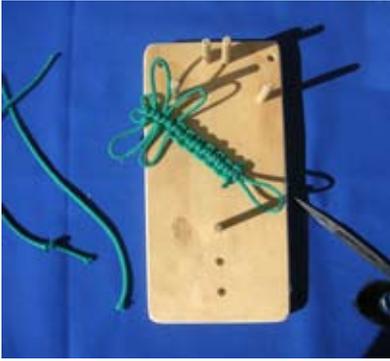
Using the same tying method, make a series of knots, but without using the pegs to create the dragonfly's body. Draw each knot tight. The knots should be made close to each other.



Step 10

Continue tying knots until the body covers two-thirds to three-quarters the length of the vertical cords.

Note: The following actions should be carried out by an adult.



Step 11

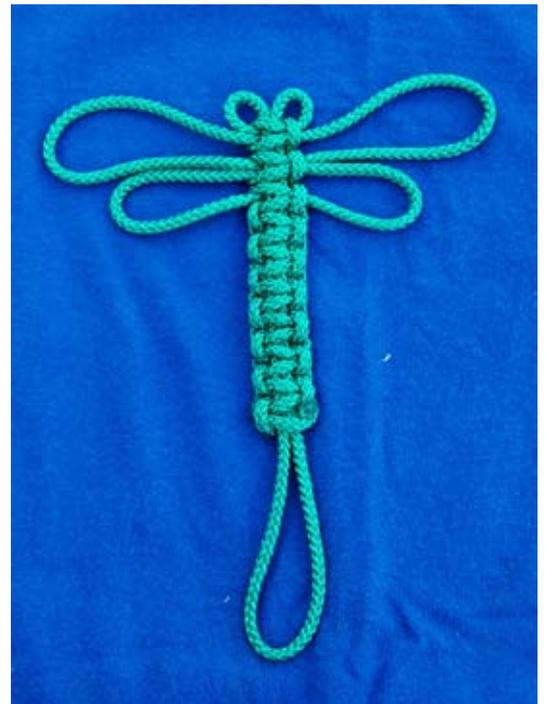
Remove the dragonfly from the board. Cut the ends of the cord leaving approximately 3-4mm ends.



Step 12

Using a flame from a gas lighter or match, melt the ends of the cord and spread the melted end using a cold surface such as scissor blades.

Congratulations, you have completed a dragonfly that a child will be proud to take home!



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The Dragonfly Jig

Take a piece of 18mm thick wood, plywood or pine is ok.

Cut to the size shown and drill where marked to take dowels or golf tees.

