

ACTIVITY!

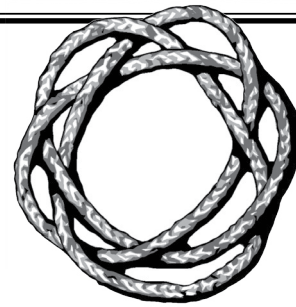
MAKE YOUR OWN

Gordian Knot

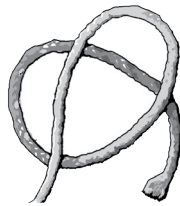
One legend says Alexander conquered Asia by solving the puzzle of the Gordian Knot. According to a prophecy, whoever untied this endless knot would rule the continent. Alexander took the direct approach—he cut the knot open with his sword. Today, a “Gordian knot” means an unsolvable problem. No one knows exactly what the Gordian Knot looked like. But you can make a knot called a Turk’s Head appear “endless” by joining the ends after it’s tied.

Supplies

- rope, twine, or string about 3 feet (90 centimeters) long
- scissors
- glue and/or clear tape

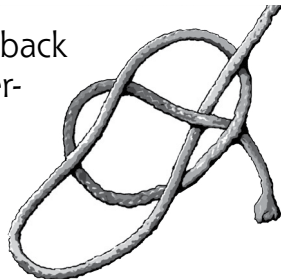


1 Start with the right end of the rope in front of you and the rest off to the left. Make a pretzel shape.

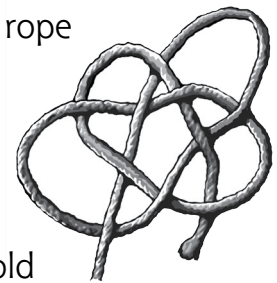


2 Bring the left end back towards the center, going over-under-over as shown.

3 Bring the left end back down, going under-over-under-over.



4 Trim the ends of the rope so they meet at the bottom of the last loop. Holding the ends together, attach with glue or wrap with tape to hold in place.

**Tips for Nylon or Polyester Rope:**

Pull out the inner core to make the rope more bendable. Also, you can melt the ends together and really make the knot continuous. Ask an adult to help. Then hold the ends about 2 inches (5 centimeters) above a candle flame.