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Opening extract from

The Curious Boys Book of Adventure

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Chapter One

Exploring

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO FIND SOME ADVENTURE? Get out into the great outdoors and do some exploring. Go for a hike in the woods, build a treehouse; you can have some great adventures learning how to tie knots, or practising your Morse Code for those secret spy missions ahead.

✦

Then at night there's an entire universe overhead to search for planets and constellations of Greek gods and goddesses. OK, the great explorers of the past sailed for the South Pole or tramped through Africa, but all those men had to start somewhere. Perhaps it was by taking a running leap out the back door.

Tying knots

No one should set off for a day of adventure without knowing how to tie a few good knots. You can use knots to tie logs together to make a raft, or to string up a home-made tent in case of sudden rainstorms. If you ever want to try sailing or mountain climbing, knowing how to tie these knots will give you a head start.

DID YOU KNOW? In the past, knots have been used as home-made calculators. The Inca people in Peru would put knots in long pieces of string to keep track of village populations, food stores, trade and to calculate taxes. Even though the Incas were without a written language, these knotted strings – known as *quipu* – helped them calculate and record the data needed to run an empire.

YOU WILL NEED

- String or rope

Reef knot

1 A REEF KNOT IS EASY TO TIE, and can be used in most situations. It's also easy to loosen: just push one end towards the knot. Using two ropes, make an 'X' left over right, and then bring one end through the loop as if you're tying your shoelaces.

2 REPEAT THIS PROCESS, but this time make the 'X' right over left. Pull it tight, and you will have the knot.

