



## EXPANDING THE ACTIVITY:

### Fieldtrips: Do You Know the Ropes?

Visiting a museum is a good way to integrate the historical aspects of rope making into this project. Below are some suggested New York sites, but a nature center, pioneer village, or historical exhibit in your area might better fit your curriculum.

The New York State Museum  
Cultural Education Center  
Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY  
Tel: 518-474-5877

<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/>

See the Iroquois exhibit for items related to rope making.

The Farmer's Museum  
Cooperstown, NY  
Tel: 888-547-1405

<http://www.farmersmuseum.org/>

View exhibits that include information about rope fibers, tools, and products. Visit the gardens with flax and dogbane plants.

South Street Seaport Museum  
207 Front Street, New York  
Tel: 212-748-8610

<http://www.southstseaport.org/>

Explore the maritime history of rope.

### Adapting the Activity...

Make cordage from plant fibers.

Use the rope you made to make plant hangers and coil baskets.

Hang different sized ropes from the ceiling and attach cloth leaves to simulate a rainforest in a corner of the classroom.

Make a rug. Dye sturdy cotton cloth with indigo or use old denim garments. Tear fabric into narrow strips. Use the rope maker to create a three-ply "rope". Coil the rope into an oval or round shape, stitching the coils loosely together to make a "braided" rug.

### On the Ropes. . .

- In 1887, the Queen Victoria Park Commissioners prohibited tight-rope walkers from anchoring their ropes to the gorge walls near Niagara Falls to discourage daredevil stunts over the falls.
- Polypropylene is the only rope material that floats.
- The Incas of Peru kept financial accounts using knotted ropes.
- Rope courses have been popular in the US since the early 1960s as part of outdoor recreation, professional development, and skill-building programs.
- Chasms in Nepal, China, and other mountainous countries are sometimes spanned by rope bridges.
- USA Jump Rope National Records as of 2007 were:

#### Guys' Record

Age	Score (jumps per min)	Year
11 and under	320	2001
12-14	343	2002
15-17	346	2007
18 and over	359	2007

#### Gals' Record

Age	Score (jumps per min)	Year
11 and under	324	2003
12-14	359	2006
15-17	367	2007
18 and over	350	2007

