

The Story of Rope

- Was it invented and when? – Discovered rather than invented, in prehistoric times.
- Long human hair can be twisted into plaits, just like rope.
- What is rope? – Length of fibres, twisted together to improve strength.
- What is a Rope Walk? – Long shed or Street where rope was made.
- It used to be made by hand twisting, now machines have taken over.
- Fibres are woven into Yarns, then Strands, and rope.
- Rope can be made of Hemp, Manila, Sisal, Coir and Hair – also nylon and synthetic material, and wire and steel. You can even make strong rope from paper.
- Most rope is Right Laid (Z-Laid), some is Left laid (S-Laid).
- Most rope has 3 Strands – it stays nice and round.
- Some have 4 Strands but need a ‘heart’ in the centre otherwise it will squash flat. A Heart is normally made of the same material as the rope, just a single strand. Demonstrated by pennies.
- Rope Ladders and some Ships’ rigging require a 4-Strand rope. Why? To distribute the weight of the ladder rung; two strands on each side of the rung.
- Things to do with a rope – Pull with it, tie knots in it, whip it (why is it called ‘whipping’?), secure things with it, rescue people and animals with it, lash poles with it, pitch a tent with it – other suggestions?
- Care of Rope – never put it away wet. Why? Rot and smell. Never step on a rope, clean dust and stones out of rope before you put it away. Whip all ends.
- Rope is measured by its diameter or circumference.
- CAUTION – Never tie a rope round anyone’s neck.



A Rope Story

Eleven people were hanging on a rope under a helicopter, ten men and one woman.

The rope was not strong enough to carry them all, so they decided that one has to drop off. Otherwise they are all going to fall.

They were not able to choose that person, but then the woman made a very touching speech

She said that she would voluntarily let go of the rope, because as a woman she was used to giving up everything for her husband and kids, and for men in general, without ever getting anything in return.

As soon as she finished her speech, all the men started clapping their hands...