**Activity 9: Maritime Knot Activity**

**Collection Areas:** Maritime building, number 21 on the map.

**Curriculum Links:**

* ***Technology:*** Technological Knowledge.
* ***Social Sciences.***

**Topics/Themes:** Ships, knots, sailing, fine motor skills.

**Resource Kit:** Rope, ”how to make a knot” diagrams, game instruction, Questions for Viewing, Guide for Teachers / Helpers

**Time estimation:** 20-30mins

**Goals:**

Students will be able to:

* Gain an understanding of the complex and crucial skill of knot tying for sailors and explorers.
* Gain practical knowledge on how to tie a knot.

**Activity 1:**

Students will practice tying different types of knots. Following the knot instructions, students will follow the steps to create the knots.

Please make sure students undo their knots each time, and return the rope into the box with no knots in it.

**Activity 2:**

If there is extra time or you feel like having a quick game with the kids, here is a game you can play using the rope.

Divide the group into two teams, each team with an approximately metre long piece of rope. Each person in the team needs to take turns tying the two ends of their piece of rope together using the reef knot/square knot. They then need to put the tied together piece of rope over their head, step through it, then untie it and give it to the next team member to complete the task. Once everyone in the group has done this, whoever is the fastest team, wins!

**Guide for teachers/helpers. What to do at this activity:**

1. Students will use the laminated knot instructions to practice tying knots.
2. Each student will need a piece of rope and to be able to see the knot tying instruction sheets.
3. After they have had a go at tying the types of knots, there is a quick game they can play in two teams. Take a look at the game instructions sheet.

**Questions for viewing:**

* What is the importance of a sailor knowing how to tie knots?
* What situations might sailors have to tie knots?
* Do you think sailors now still use these knots?
* Who else might need to know these knot-tying skills?

**Note**: This activity can be a basis for a **post-visit inquiry** into knot and rope work. Knots and knowledge of rope work have been known by humans well before they became sea-faring creatures.  The earliest rope was made from such diverse materials as plant fibres, strips cut from animal skins, and even animal and human hair. Knots not only served a practical purpose but were also linked with magic, medicine, and religious beliefs. The Mayans even used knots as a base for their system of mathematics. One of the earliest knots known to be used was the sheet-bend, which the Incas incorporated into their nets.