

LESSON 8: KNOT TYING FOR FLY FISHING

Grade-Level Outcomes

Primary Outcomes

Movement concepts, principles & knowledge: Applies the terminology associated with exercise and participation in selected individual-performance activities, dance, net/wall games, target games, aquatics and/or outdoor pursuits appropriately. (S2.H1.L1)

Lifetime activities: Demonstrates competency and/or refines activity-specific movement skills in 2 or more lifetime activities (outdoor pursuits, individual-performance activities, aquatics, net/wall games and target games). (S1.H1.L1)

Embedded Outcome

Working with others: Uses communication skills and strategies that promote team or group dynamics. (S4.H3.L1)

Lesson Objectives

The learner will:

- tie a fly line to leader connection knot.
- tie a leader to tippet connection knot.
- tie a leader to fly connection knot.
- produce a video on relevant knots for fly fishing.
- apply terminology related to tying flies appropriately.

Equipment and Materials

- Climbing ropes of different sizes
- 10-foot (3 m) chunks of fly line
- Leader material
- Tippet material
- Flies (with hook cut off)
- Access to the Internet
- Video camera or device

Introduction

For homework, you researched the types of flies used in given month or season on a nearby river. What did you find out? Today, you will learn about the critical knots you need for fly fishing.

Start with a story about hooking a big fish. The story grabs students' attention and ends, after a long battle, with the fish breaking off the leader and getting away. The angler, after winding in the line to tie on another fly, realizes that the fly came untied during the battle, which only adds to the frustration. Ask students to recall knot-tying lessons from previous experience (e.g., camping, rock climbing) and the importance of tying the correct knots accurately.

Instructional Task:

Fly Line to Leader, Leader to Tippet, Tippet to Hook

■ PRACTICE TASK

Students access the website Animated Knots by Grog: www.animatedknots.com.

Students research one knot for each of the following connections categories:

- Leader to fly line
- Leader to tippet
- Leader or tippet to hook

Extension

Students tie the knots using leader material multiple times and then turn them in to you as evidence of their mastery.

Student Choices/Differentiation

- Students can work with partners.
- Guide students to specific websites to support their focus on this task.

What to Look For

Students are doing research and using materials to develop their instructional videos.

Instructional Task: Student Video

■ PRACTICE TASK

In groups of three or four, students create an instructional video for each of the three knots they chose (there are several ways to tie each connection). Students tie the knots using climbing rope so they are easy to see on the video. Students submit their videos for your review.

Extension

If time is available, students can present their videos to the class.

EMBEDDED OUTCOME: S.4.H.3.L.1. If students work in groups, they will need to work together to make decisions about which knots to tie and how to produce the video. Provide feedback on effective communication skills during the project.

Refinement

For students with limited video skills, provide a video template for them to use (e.g., an iMovie movie trailer).

Student Choices/Differentiation

- Students choose their groups.
- Students choose their knots.

What to Look For

- Students are working together effectively.
 - Quality student talk is focused on the learning target.
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Formal and Informal Assessments

- Teacher review of video products
- Check of knots tied by students
- Journal entry

Closure

- Why is it important to be fluent in knot tying?
- How might an authentic fly fishing environment affect your ability to tie the correct knot?
- Next time, you'll learn about the catch-and-release philosophy practiced by many fly fishers.

Reflection

- Were students able to use the Internet resource effectively?
- Do they need to spend more time practicing the knots?
- Review student videos and provide feedback.

Homework: Fly Fishing Journal Entry

- Write a short fishing story (three to five paragraphs long) about how your knowledge of tying knots helped land a big fish or how your lack of knowledge in this area lost a big fish.
- If you haven't fished before, you can create a fictional story.

Resources

Internet keyword search: "fly fishing leader," "fly fishing tippet," "fly fishing knots"