



Building Shelters at School

GRADES 7 - 10

LESSON DESCRIPTION

Improve your students teamwork skills and gain valuable survival knowledge by practising shelter-building and knot-tying. These skills are useful for camping, hiking or building comfort in the outdoors.

SUGGESTED CURRICULUM LINKS

Phys Ed: S.1.7.B.3, S.1.7.C.1, K.3.7.A.3, S.1.S1.C.1
English Language Arts: S1.3.1.1, S1.3.1.3, S1.3.1.4, S1.3.3.4, S1.3.2.1., S1.3.2.5, S1.4.4.2, S1.4.4.3

OTHER RESOURCES

[Knot Tying \(Easy\)](#) and [Knot Tying \(Intermediate\)](#)
[Tarp Shelter Designs](#)
[Survival Shelters](#)

LESSON

Materials

- Tarps
- Rope
- A park or area with a number of trees close together

Directions

- Research examples of different tarp shelters and styles for different climates and situations
- Practise some knots. Use short lengths of rope for each student and access resources online to develop skills. Basic knot recommendations are the clove hitch and bowline.
- Go outside and spend time building the shelters. Once shelters have been built, have students spend some time in the survival shelters making observations of how they work. These activities can lead to writing projects pulling from the experience.