



Camp

# Invent a gadget

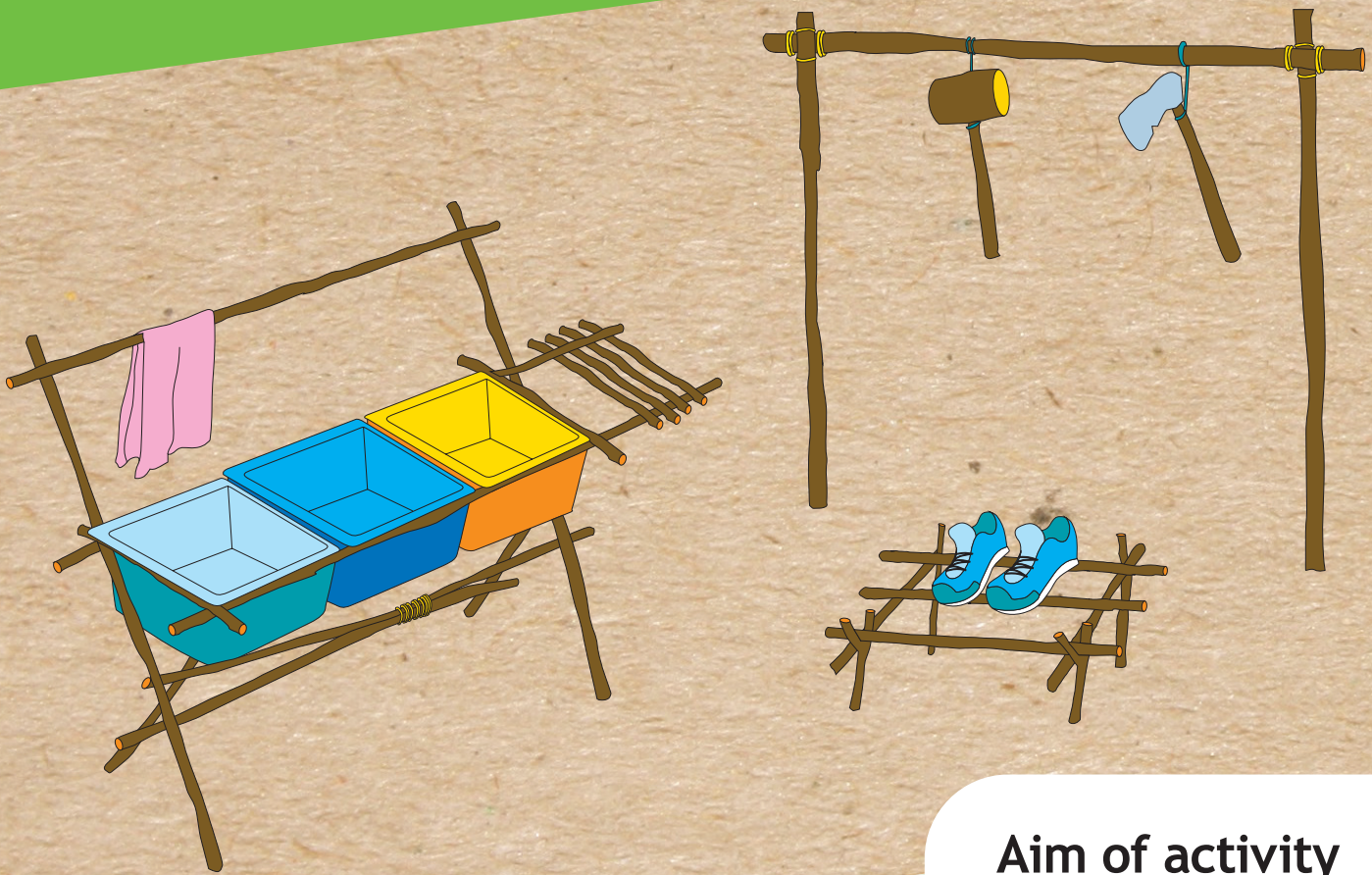
Stage

3

60 mins



Skills builder



## What you'll get out of it

- Practise your knots.
- Be creative.
- Create a great new camping gadget.

## What you'll need

- String
- Pencils or small sticks
- Reminder sheets for how to tie different knots (optional)

## Aim of activity

Ever wished you had something to make camping life a little easier? Now's your chance to invent it!



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding





# Camp

## Note to leader

It will be useful to watch some online videos of how to tie the suggested knots – or use a knot book, if you have one.

## What to do

**1** Get into small groups and talk about something you could make from wood and string that might be handy while camping.

Here are some ideas:

- A towel rail
- A washing-up stand
- A shoe rack
- A food platform

**2** Once your group has decided what gadget to make, draw a design for it. Be as imaginative as you can!

**3** Think about what knots you might need to hold it together, and label them on your drawing. Some useful knots are:

- Half hitch
- Clove hitch
- Square lashing
- Diagonal lashing
- Tripod lashing

**4** Give everyone in your group a piece of string, then practise the different knots you're planning to use.

**5** Now it's time to work together and make your gadget. Instead of wood and rope, use pencils or small sticks and string to make a miniature version.

**6** When you've finished building your gadget, test it. Does it stand up? Would it hold the object you've made it for? What smaller object(s) could you use to test your mini version?

**7** As a group, talk about whether there's anything you could do to improve your original design. If so, try making the changes – then test it again! Does it work better?

**8** By yourself, design and make another mini gadget and take it home. Test it out for a week – and at your next meeting, tell the group how well it worked.