

WHY KNOT?

HOW much do you know about knots?

Can you, for example, tie a **bow knot**, also known as a **double slipped reef knot**?

You might think not, but you can probably think knot - if you get our drift.

When you tie your shoe laces that is exactly the knot you are using.

If you plait your hair that's another knot.

Knots have been around a very long time - for at least 15,000 years but more likely longer than

that. They are probably as old as humankind, and they are still used by most people on earth almost every day.

Our oldest ancestors most likely collected grass, vines and bamboo and twisted them into a knot to make rope for various uses.

Rope is a knot!

Knot tying is not unique to humans either.

Animals such as eels and hagfish can tie themselves in knots.

While apes living in captivity

have learnt to untie and in some cases even tie knots.

Some scientists believe that knot tying even pre-dated humans, and that gorillas were using simple **granny knots** to weave branches together for their nests.

Knots are often associated with ships and sailing, and for good reason.

There are many knots sailors need to know, but probably the most useful is the **bowline**.

This knot creates a fixed loop which can be secured to an object, and no matter how tight it

becomes it can be easily untied as well.

But knots are used everywhere.

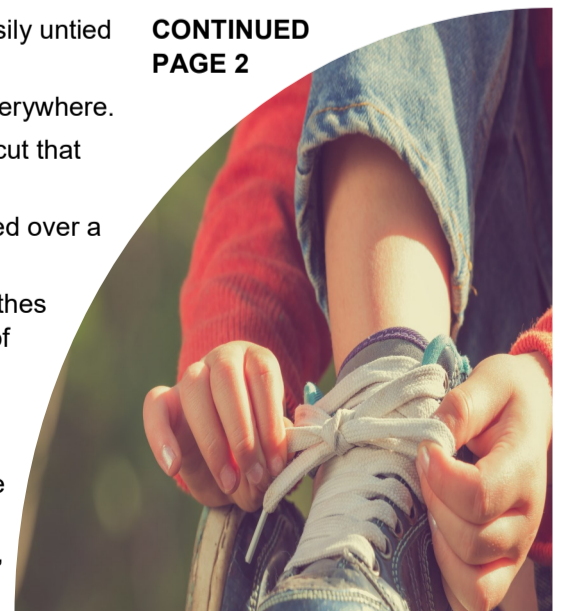
Have you ever had a cut that required stitches?

Have you ever travelled over a suspension bridge?

Have a look at the clothes you are wearing - all of which were knitted or sewn together using knots.

The materials they are made of, whether cotton, wool or acrylic, are just fibres that

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Ties that bind



Knots are also a measure of a ship's speed, dating back to the 17th Century when sailors used a device called a 'common log'. A common log was a rope with knots tied at regular intervals, attached to a piece of wood. It was allowed to float in the water behind the ship. After a certain time the sailors would count the knots between the ship and the piece of wood to estimate the speed the ship was travelling at.



USEFUL: Highpoint hitch knots are great for lifting heavy objects. Pictures: iStock/ ammhph, seamartini

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have been twisted together. That's right, they are made with knots.

There might have even been a knot in the bread role you ate for lunch.

You might like to spend some time looking around you and making a list of

all the knots you can find.

You might also like to learn to tie some of the knots pictured on page one.

Perhaps go online, or head to your local library and see if you can find a book with instructions for tying various types of knots.

A good knot to try at home is the **highpoint hitch knot**, pictured above. It is not too hard to tie, and very easy to untie.

Here's a link to a 'how-to' video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_NgoNPphm8

Children's University members can earn time in their passports for participating in these challenges at the discretion of your school/ hub coordinators.

You could take photos or make a video of your knot tying skills, or do a demonstration at your next CU meeting.



Tune into UCTV for an authors guide to writing

TASMANIAN author Lucy Christopher will be the guest presenter on the upcoming episode of *UCTV Alive for Kids* on Monday, June 5.

[Register here](#)



Lucy, who is also a teacher at the University of Tasmania, writes books for children and young people.

She is a lover of words and storytelling.

Lucy will talk about her books and how nature inspires her writing.

If you register and tune-in to

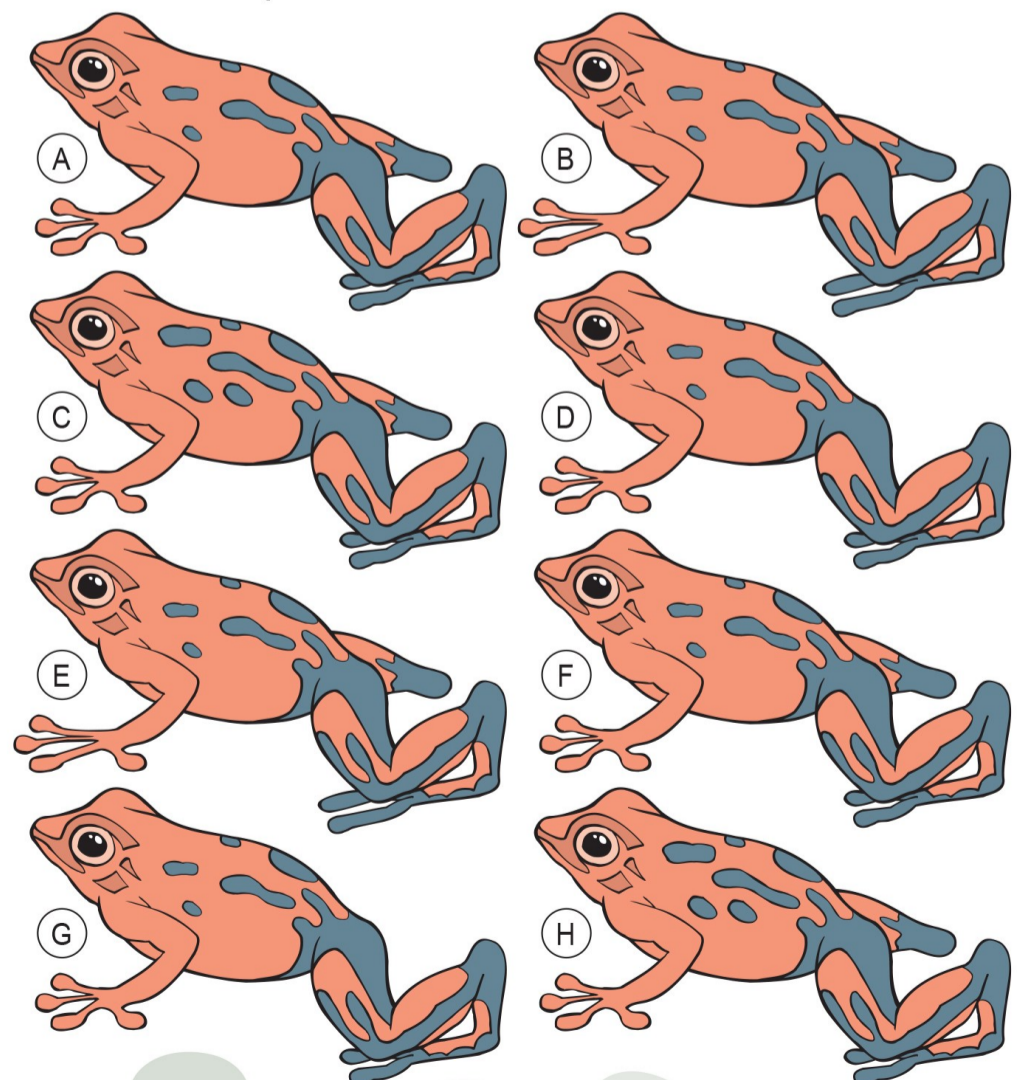
watch the show from 2:00pm to 2:30pm, you will be able to ask Lucy questions, and she will answer them for you live on air.

The episode will be celebrate the [Tasmanian Premier's Reading Challenge](#)

Find out more about Lucy here: <https://www.lucychristopher.com/>

Mixed up FROGS

Four pairs of Arrow-poison Frogs are mixed up. Each pair is slightly different from the others. Match the pairs then check the solution below!



www.johnpollifarmer.com.au

DID YOU KNOW?

Arrow-poison Frogs are about 4cm long. They live in the rainforests of Central and South America.

SOLUTION
A + F, B + E, C + H, D + G