



# The String Book

*Adam Hart-Davis*

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*The String Book* opens with a note about an 8,000-year-old piece of string that was found at a Stone Age settlement in England, about which the editor of *British Archaeology* said, "I don't think the average person realizes what an important piece of technology string has been over the ages."

*The String Book* is here to set that right. What the author calls a "cornucopia of cunning and knowledge" fills this informative and charming collection of history, knot instruction, facts and surprising trivia.

The chapters and sections are:

- Roping Yarns Knowing the Ropes; Stringing History; String, Rope and Religions
- String Along Day-to-Day String; String Fanatics
- Get Knotted 40 stoppers, reefs, bends, hitches, loops, whippings and shoelacings
- The Art of String Cultured String; Sporty String
- Loopy Science Discoveries and Inventions; Stringy Theories
- Country Ties On Land; At Sea
- Loose Ends String Miscellany; Stringy Websites.

Amusing two-color illustrations highlight the text. Here are examples of the stringiness in *The String Book*:

- The Ancient Egyptians probably used string to help align pyramids north-south and east-west. The Polynesians possibly used rope to move the Easter Island moai statues into place.
- To water plants while you're away, trail a piece of wet natural string from a bowl above the plants into the soil.
- Farmer Francis A. Johnson spared four hours a day to wind a ball of string until he needed a crane to move it.
- The great 15th century inventor Leonardo da Vinci had many ropey inventions, including a parachute, a ropemaking machine, and rope-operated pulleys.
- How to do magic tricks, how to tie a Hojojutsu ball, how to weigh a pig, and how to make a seismograph, a cat's cradle, a friendship bracelet, and a jar sling to carry your bottle of water.

This is a fun and surprisingly informative book that is a great gift for any reader.

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