EXPANDING THE ACTIVITY:

**Fieldtrips: Do You Know the Ropes?**

Visiting a museum is a good way to integrate the historical aspects of rope making into this project. Below are some suggested New York sites, but a nature center, pioneer village, or historical exhibit in your area might better fit your curriculum.

The New York State Museum
Cultural Education Center
Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY
Tel: 518-474-5877
See the Iroquois exhibit for items related to rope making.

The Farmer’s Museum
Cooperstown, NY
Tel: 888-547-1405
View exhibits that include information about rope fibers, tools, and products. Visit the gardens with flax and dogbane plants.

South Street Seaport Museum
207 Front Street, New York
Tel: 212-748-8610
Explore the maritime history of rope.

**Adapting the Activity…**

Make cordage from plant fibers.

Use the rope you made to make plant hangers and coil baskets.

Hang different sized ropes from the ceiling and attach cloth leaves to simulate a rainforest in a corner of the classroom.

Make a rug. Dye sturdy cotton cloth with indigo or use old denim garments. Tear fabric into narrow strips. Use the rope maker to create a three-ply "rope". Coil the rope into an oval or round shape, stitching the coils loosely together to make a "braided" rug.

**On the Ropes…**

- In 1887, the Queen Victoria Park Commissioners prohibited tight-rope walkers from anchoring their ropes to the gorge walls near Niagara Falls to discourage daredevil stunts over the falls.
- Polypropylene is the only rope material that floats.
- The Incas of Peru kept financial accounts using knotted ropes.
- Rope courses have been popular in the US since the early 1960s as part of outdoor recreation, professional development, and skill-building programs.
- Chasms in Nepal, China, and other mountainous countries are sometimes spanned by rope bridges.
- USA Jump Rope National Records as of 2007 were:

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