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Knots Unravelled: from string to mathematics

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Knots are part of life and culture: parcels, carpets, neckties, knitting patterns, hair braids, koeksisters. Sailors, mountain climbers and lacemakers are all skilled in tying complicated knots. Knots, mere, playthings in primary school, can be found in the frontiers of current mathematical research, such as polymer chemistry, quantum gravity and DNA analysis.

In mathematics, the study of knots is a branch of topology. How can you tell whether two knots are the same? Is there a sensible way of classifying knots? In *Knots Unravelled*, the authors lead the reader through the basic theory of knots, with interludes and excursions into culture and the visual arts. There are activities and investigations, with hints and solutions at the back.