

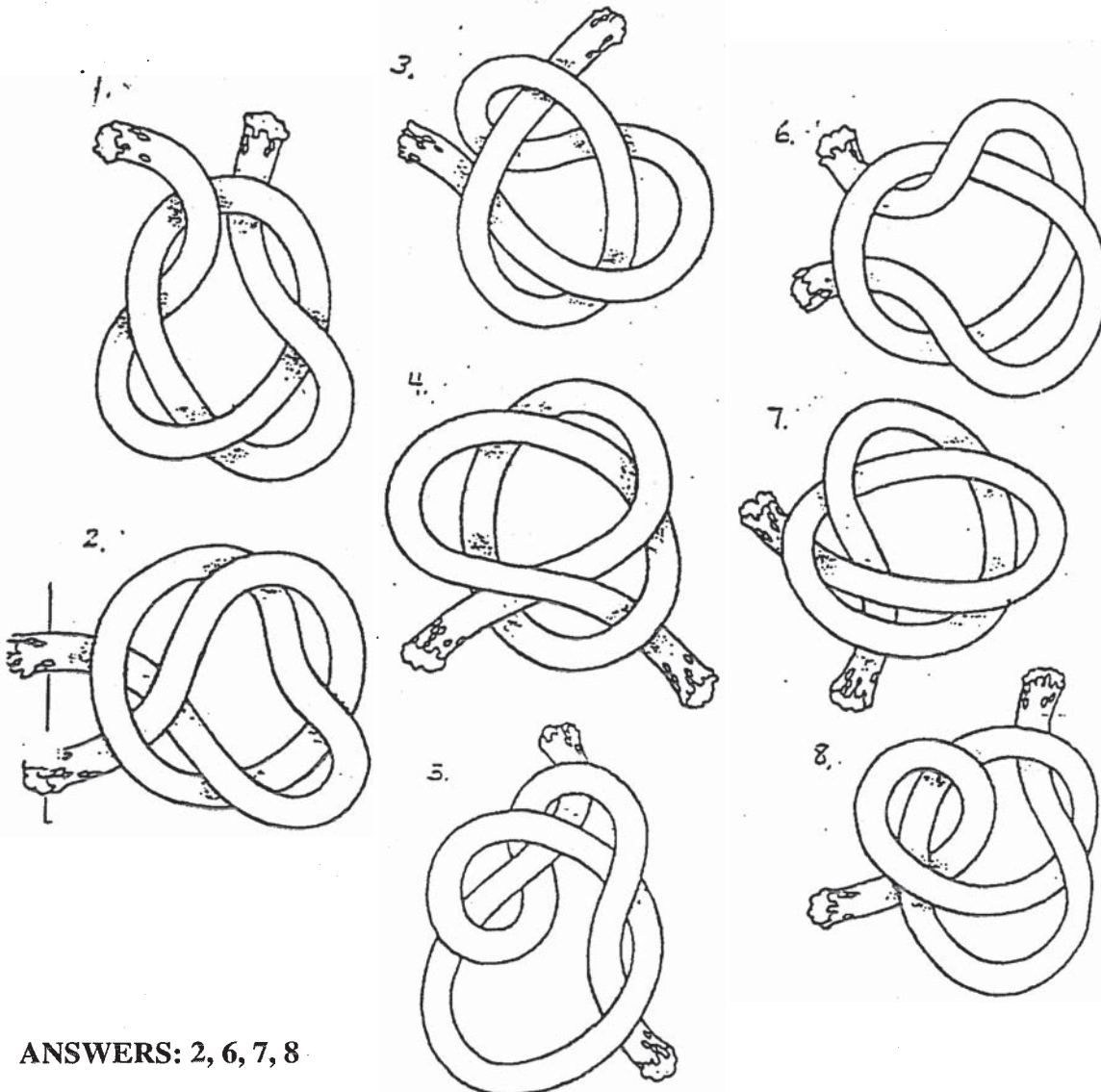
KNOTS-AND-NOT-KNOTS

As simple as this pastime appears, it is a real brainteaser that requires much concentration and good visual perception. Knots-and-not-knots was traditionally played between parent or grandparent and child. Some adults felt that perception puzzles like these were a "stimulant to the intelligence" and helped make the player wise. Here is how it was done:

Using a short length of rope the parent would twist and loop the rope to form what appeared to be a loose knot. But was it a knot or not a knot? The puzzle was simply that - to determine what would happen if the ends of the rope were pulled.

Study the knots in the illustration carefully and see if you can figure which ones are knots and which are not knots. Try to imagine what would happen if you pulled the rope ends of each "knot" in question.

Now, using a piece of rope about eighteen inches (twenty-six centimeters) long, clothesline rope will work nicely, duplicate the loops shown in the illustration, and see if you were right. You will find that it is now quite simple to make up your own knots-and-not-knots puzzles.



ANSWERS: 2, 6, 7, 8