



Bear Claws

Adventure Requirements

1. Learn about three common designs of pocketknives.
2. Learn knife safety and earn your [Whittling Chip](#).*
3. Do one of the following:
 - A. Using a pocketknife, carve two items.
 - B. With a pocketknife, safely perform each of these tasks:
 1. Demonstrate how to cut a piece of rope, twine or fishing line;
 2. Open a sealed box without damaging the contents;
 3. Open a can with the can opener tool on a pocketknife;
 4. Remove and replace the screws on an object with the screwdriver tool on a pocketknife;
 5. Open a letter

*One of the items carved for Bear Claws requirement 3 may be used to fulfill Whittling Chip requirement 3.



Parent Corner

The Scout Store is a great place for a Cub Scout's first pocket knife. The simpler it is, the better!



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Bear Claws

Requirement #1

Materials Needed

- Pocketknife Safety Rules
- Pocketknife pledge
- Whittling Chip Safety Quiz
- Pencil

Instructions

1. Learn about three common designs of pocketknives.

Pocketknives are great tools to have on campouts. You can use them to carve hiking sticks, cut up food when you are cooking, and even open bottles and cans. But you have to know how to use them the right way in order to stay safe. Learning to use pocketknives-and making neat things with them-is what this adventure is all about.

The **pen knife has hinges and blades on both ends** of the knife. Often, they will have two or three blades at each end. They are also smaller than the other two types.





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The **jack knife is only hinged on one end**, but it may have more than one blade. Outdoorsmen such as hunters, campers and fishermen tend to like these knives.



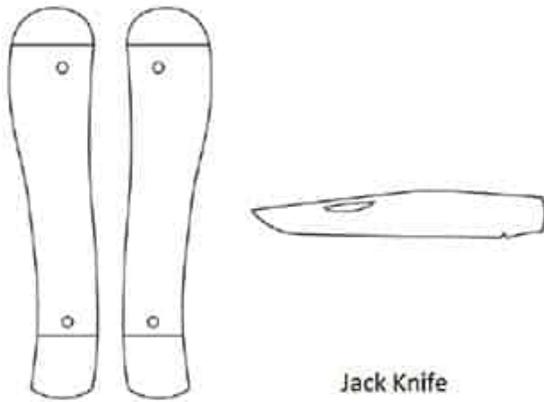
The multi-purpose knife is popular because there are **so many different things, they can have on them**. Obviously, they'll have a knife blade, but they can also have a file, scissors, tweezers, can or bottle openers and even a mini-saw blade.



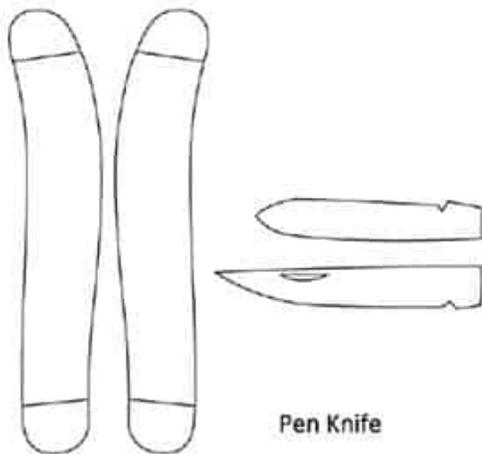


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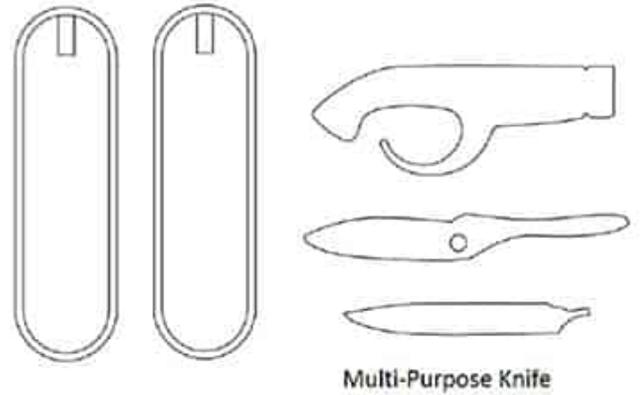
Side by side comparison of all three knife types.



Jack Knife



Pen Knife



Multi-Purpose Knife



Pee Wee Says

Knives can be dangerous if not handled properly. With your parents, watch this [video](#) to learn more about knife safety.



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WHITTILING CHIP POCKETKNIFE SAFETY RULES

- A knife is a tool, not a toy.
- Know how to sharpen a knife. A sharp knife is safer because it is less likely to slip and cut you.
 - Keep the blade clean.
 - Never carry an open pocketknife.
- When you are not using your knife, close it and put it away.
 - Keep your knife dry.
- When you are using the cutting blade, do not try to make big shavings or chips. Easy does it.
- Make a safety circle: Before you pick up your knife to use it, stretch your arm out and turn in a circle. If you can't touch anyone else, it is safe to use your knife.
 - Always cut away from your body

A Scout is trustworthy. You can show that you are trustworthy by taking care of your pocketknife and using it safely.

A Scout is obedient. When you follow the rules of knife safety, you keep yourself from getting hurt and you show that you are obedient.



**Whittling
Chip**

This certifies that _____

has demonstrated knowledge of, and skill in, the use of a personal pocketknife. By completing these safety requirements and by promising to abide by the Knives Are Not Toys guidelines and the Pocketknife Pledge, he has earned the right to carry a pocketknife to designated Cub Scout functions.

Den Leader _____



**POCKETKNIFE
PLEDGE**

In return for the privilege of carrying a pocketknife to designated Cub Scout functions, I agree to the following:

1. I will treat my pocketknife with the respect due a useful tool.
2. I will always close my pocketknife and put it away when not in use.
3. I will not use my pocketknife when it might injure someone near me.
4. I promise never to throw my pocketknife for any reason.
5. I will use my pocketknife in a safe manner at all times.

Signature _____



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Part I: Circle the correct answer

1. True / False A knife is NOT a toy.
2. True / False A dull knife is safer than a sharp knife.
3. True / False Dirt on a knife blade helps keep it sharp.
4. True / False Never carve your initials on anything that does NOT belong to you.
5. True / False A knife is handy for cutting bark off trees.
6. True / False A pocketknife should always be closed when it is not in use.
7. True / False It's okay to keep your knife wet.
8. True / False You should carry your open knife in your pocket.
9. True / False You should close the blade with the palm of your hand
10. True / False A Cub Scout should carry a fixed blade knife if it is kept in a sheath.

Part II: Fill in the blank

1. Close the blade with the _____ of your hand.
2. A _____ should never be used on something that will dull or break it.
3. People watching you work with your knife should not enter your _____.
4. Your knife should always be kept _____ and _____.
5. Scissors should be handled with the same safety rules as a _____.
6. Always _____ when carrying a knife or scissors.

Part III: Circle the correct answer

1. Always keep your knife (dry / wet) so it will not rust.
2. When using a knife, do not make (big / little) shavings or chips.
3. A (dull / sharp) knife is more likely to cut you.
4. A knife should be cleaned (before / after) cutting food.
5. A fixed blade knife or scissors should be passed to another person (blade / handle) first.

The Pocketknife Pledge (fill in the blanks)

Choose from the following: *close, respect, injure, promise, all, safety*

- I understand the reason for _____ rules.
- I will treat my pocketknife with the _____ due a useful tool.
- I will always _____ my pocketknife and put it away when not in use.
- I will not use my pocketknife when it might _____ someone near me.
- I _____ never to throw my pocketknife for any reason.
- I will use my pocketknife in a safe manner at _____ times.



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From Design to Soap Carving

- If you have a clear mental picture of your idea or have carved before, you can begin by carving directly on the soap.
- Or, you can use the orangewood stick to outline a rough sketch on each surface before you carve.
- Beginners may want to sketch or use a pre-existing pattern on paper and trace it onto the soap.

Begin with Rough Cuts The actual carvings begin with rough cuts that remove the large parts of the soap not necessary for your design

- Place the soap on the table or tray.
- If you are right-handed, hold the soap with your left hand and start cutting at the upper right-hand corner. (If left-handed, use the opposite hand.)
- Leave about 1/4" margin beyond your outlined sketch to allow for mistakes and more detailed work later.
- Cut clear through the bar, removing excess soap all the way around.
- ALWAYS CUT AWAY ONLY SMALL PIECES OR SLICES. Soap often breaks if cut in big chunks.

Adding the Details

- After the first cuts, you may find it more comfortable to use the knife as if peeling a potato. Continue to stay 1/8" to 1/4" away from your sketch guidelines to allow for finer work later.
- As you work, keep turning the soap, always keeping the shape of the piece in mind. Step back from time to time to look at the entire piece.
- Watch your high points -- those that jut out farthest from the surface -- and your low points -- those farthest in.
- Carve gradually from the high points toward the deepest cuts. Your knife point is useful for this.
- Don't try to finish any one part in detail before another.
- When the piece is almost finished, smooth rough edges with the knife's edge and mark in details like eyes or ears with the knife tip or an orangewood stick.

Polishing

- Allow your sculpture to dry for a day or two.
- Then, rub it with a soft paper napkin, being careful not to break off corners or high points.
- Finish by rubbing it gently with finger tops or palm.





Good first pocketknife ideas:



BSA Official Cub Scouts Pocket Knife
Non-Locking – 3.4" Closed – 2.8" Blade



scoutstuff.org – \$20
Cub Scout Pocket Knife
Lockback – 2.7" Closed – 2" Blade
scoutstuff.org – \$15

