

Using the Ax in Camp

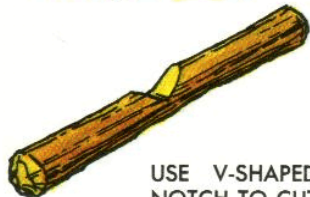
FOR GOOD axmanship in camp, use an ax that is sharp, and use it safely. The sharper the ax, the safer it is. It's hard to believe, but it is the truth. You can trust a sharp ax because it will stick where you strike. But a dull ax may be deflected; you have no control over it.

Most of your chopping and splitting will be done with the small hand ax. The best position for using this ax is kneeling on one or on both knees. Always use a chopping block underneath what you are cutting. That way there's no danger of having the ax land in the ground and nicking

the edge. Keep other campers at a safe distance when you wield your ax.

The felling ax requires a lot more skill than the hand ax. The main principle in felling a tree is to make a deep notch in the trunk a few inches above the ground on the side toward which the tree is leaning, and to finish the job with a similar cut from the other side. When the tree starts to totter, run crosswise to the direction in which it is falling. Remember never to touch a living tree except with permission, and only if absolutely necessary.

WHEN NOT IN USE, PUT AX IN ITS SHEATH, OR STICK IT IN A CHOPPING BLOCK.



USE V-SHAPED NOTCH TO CUT THICK BRANCH IN TWO PIECES.

WHEN CUTTING STICK, ANCHOR ONE END AGAINST A SMALL LOG, CUT AT THE POINT WHERE STICK RESTS AGAINST CHOPPING BLOCK.

ANOTHER WAY OF CUTTING A STICK IS TO PLACE AX EDGE IN CONTACT WITH STICK AND BRING BOTH UP AND DOWN ON CHOPPING BLOCK TOGETHER.



USE SIDE OF AX TO DRIVE WOODEN PEGS. NEVER DRIVE METAL PEGS WITH YOUR AX.

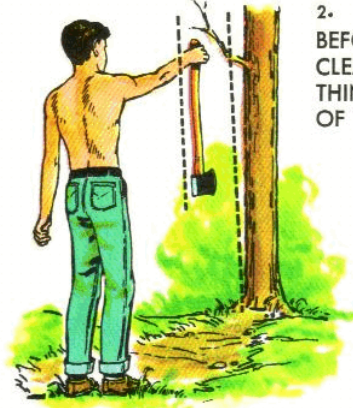


IT IS EASIER TO SPLIT A DRY LOG THAN A GREEN ONE. IN DRYING, RAYS OPEN UP INTO CRACKS.



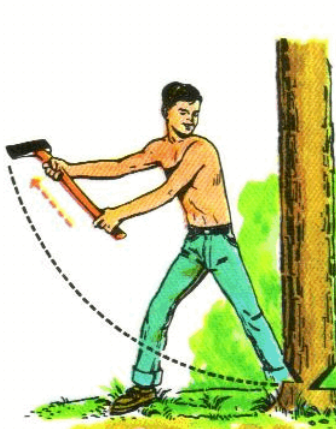
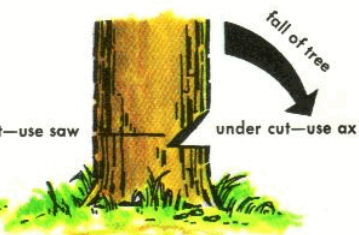
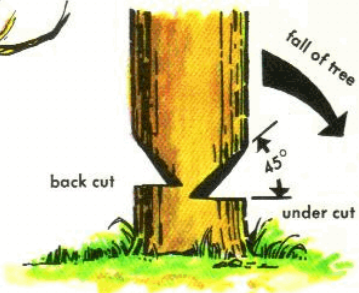
SPLIT A STICK BY THE CONTACT METHOD, ALSO: PLACE EDGE OF AX IN A CRACK. BRING AX AND STICK UP AND THEN DOWN TOGETHER ON CHOPPING BLOCK.

HOW TO FELL A TREE

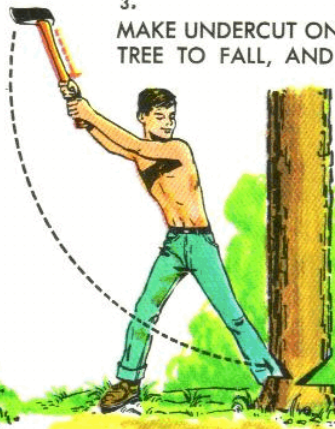


1. USE FELLING AX AS PLUMB LINE TO DECIDE FALL OF TREE.

2. BEFORE CUTTING CLEAR AWAY EVERYTHING WITHIN REACH OF YOUR AX.



4. IN RAISING AX, SLIDE UPPER HAND AWAY FROM LOWER HAND TOWARD AX HEAD, FOR MOST EFFECTIVE LIFT.



5. AS YOU SWING AX DOWN, SLIDE UPPER HAND TOWARD LOWER HAND. WEIGHT OF AX HEAD DOES MAIN JOB.

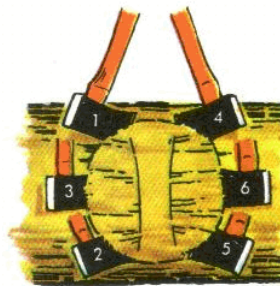
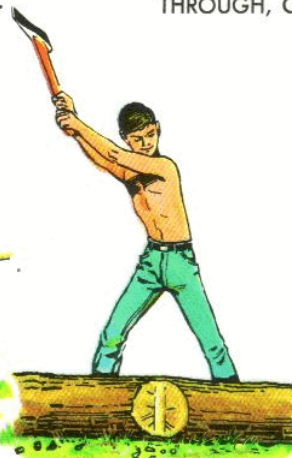


6. MAKE DIAGONAL CUT FIRST. THEN HORIZONTAL BOX CUT. NEXT CUT THE OTHER SIDE.

3. MAKE UNDERCUT ON THE SIDE TO WHICH YOU WANT TREE TO FALL, AND BACK CUT ON OPPOSITE SIDE.

LOPPING MEANS TO CUT OFF SIDE BRANCHES. CUT FROM BOTTOM OF TREE TOWARD TOP.

LOGGING A TREE IS DONE WITH V-SHAPED NOTCHES OF THE SAME DIAMETER AS THE TREE. WHEN HALF THROUGH, CUT FROM THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF TREE.



WHEN SPLITTING, PLACE PIECE AGAINST FAR SIDE OF THE CHOPPING BLOCK.

