

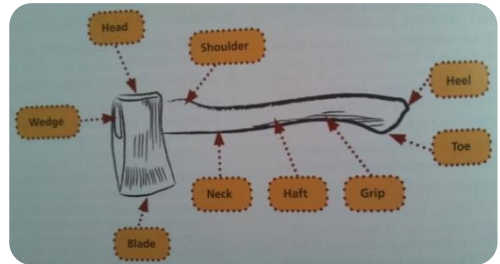


Using A Hand Axe Skills Card

An axe is an essential camp tool if you plan on having a fire. It is a potentially dangerous tool and should only be used by trained Scouts who know the safety guidelines.

Safety

- Don't wear scarves, ties, lanyards or any loose clothing, to prevent to prevent the axe being snared in clothing. Wear strong boots rather than soft trainers.
- Clear the area you are cutting in ensuring there are no overhanging branches, ropes or people within three axe lengths of you.
- Inspect the axe before use. Do not use it if the head and haft do not line up straight, if the head is loose or if there are any splits in the haft. Also, never use a blunt axe as it can slip or bounce.
- Always use a chopping block when cutting and always mask the axe when not in use.



Procedure

1. Crouch or stand with your feet apart behind the chopping block.
2. Hold the wood to be chopped with one hand.
3. With the other, grip the axe on the lower haft, on the 'grip'.
4. Chop the wood by keeping the axe and the lower part of the arm straight and bending your arm at the elbow rather than the wrist. Chop at opposite 45 degree angles, in a 'V'.
5. Clear chipping away regularly and use them as kindling.

