

Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year is a holiday signifying the beginning of the new year on the lunar/lunisolar calendar. It is celebrated in many parts of the world including Eastern and Southeastern Asia. It is also known as the Spring Festival, Chinese New Year, Seollal in Korea, Tết nguyên Đán in Vietnam, Tsagaan Sar in Mongolia, Losar in Tibet, and so on. February 12th is when it will occur in 2021.

Important Facts:

- Each year is represented by one of the twelve zodiac animals, with 2021 being the year of the ox. One version of the zodiac story is that the Jade Emperor invited the 12 animals to a banquet. The ox agreed to give the rat a ride across the river on the way to the palace, but at the last minute the rat jumped off ahead of the ox. This is how the rat became the first on the zodiac calendar, with the ox coming in second. The animals who followed after were the tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig.
- The exact date of Lunar New Year changes every year because it follows the lunar calendar in which each month begins during the new moon. It always falls between January 21 and February 21.

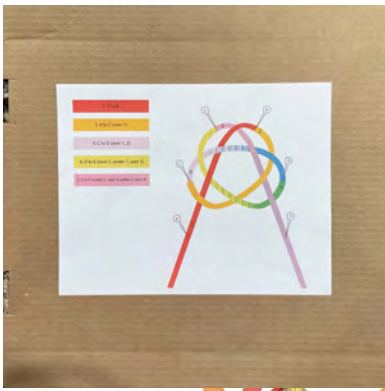
Chinese Knots

Chinese knots find its roots in Buddhism and are made from a single cord into various shapes. They are typically symmetrical and colored red to symbolize wealth and good fortune.

Today, they are used as house decorations, most especially during special events like Lunar New Year, as buttons on clothing, or given as gifts.

- The Bamboo Cage Knot resembles the weaving of a bamboo basket cage and is typically used for decorations.
- The Double Coin Knot represents interwoven coins to symbolize the circle of life.
- The Cloverleaf Knot resembles a three-leaf clover and is the basis for many other types of knots.

Chinese Knot Instructions



Step 1. Place the template on a soft, flat surface that you can pin to, such as cardboard, foam, or felt.



Step 2. Start with one end of the string at the red start line and pin at number 1.

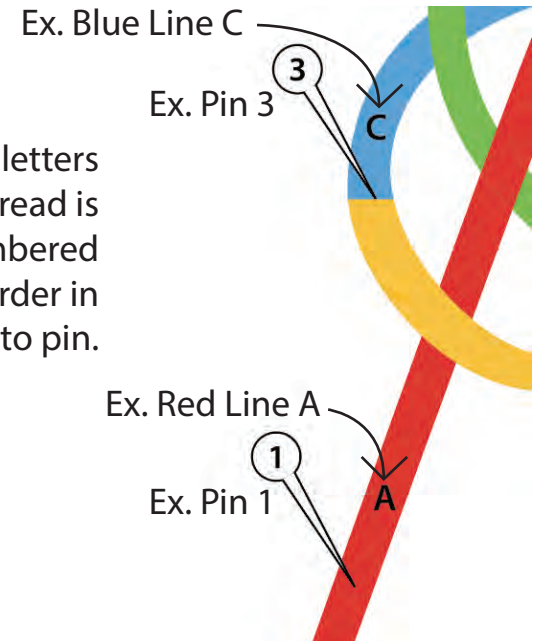


Step 3. Line up your string to follow the path so it curves and straightens where indicated. Pin where indicated.



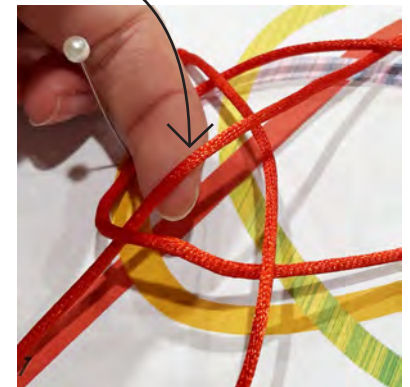
Step 4. Remove all the pins and carefully tighten the string. It should look like the final result image. If you want multiple strings like this example, simply follow the first string's path.

TIP: The colors and letters indicate which thread is which, while the numbered pins represent the order in which to pin.



Ex. Pulling the string under

TIP: When indicated to go over, lay the string on top of the noted string. When indicated to go under, hold the noted string up and pull the string end underneath.



Bamboo Cage Knot

A. 1 to 2

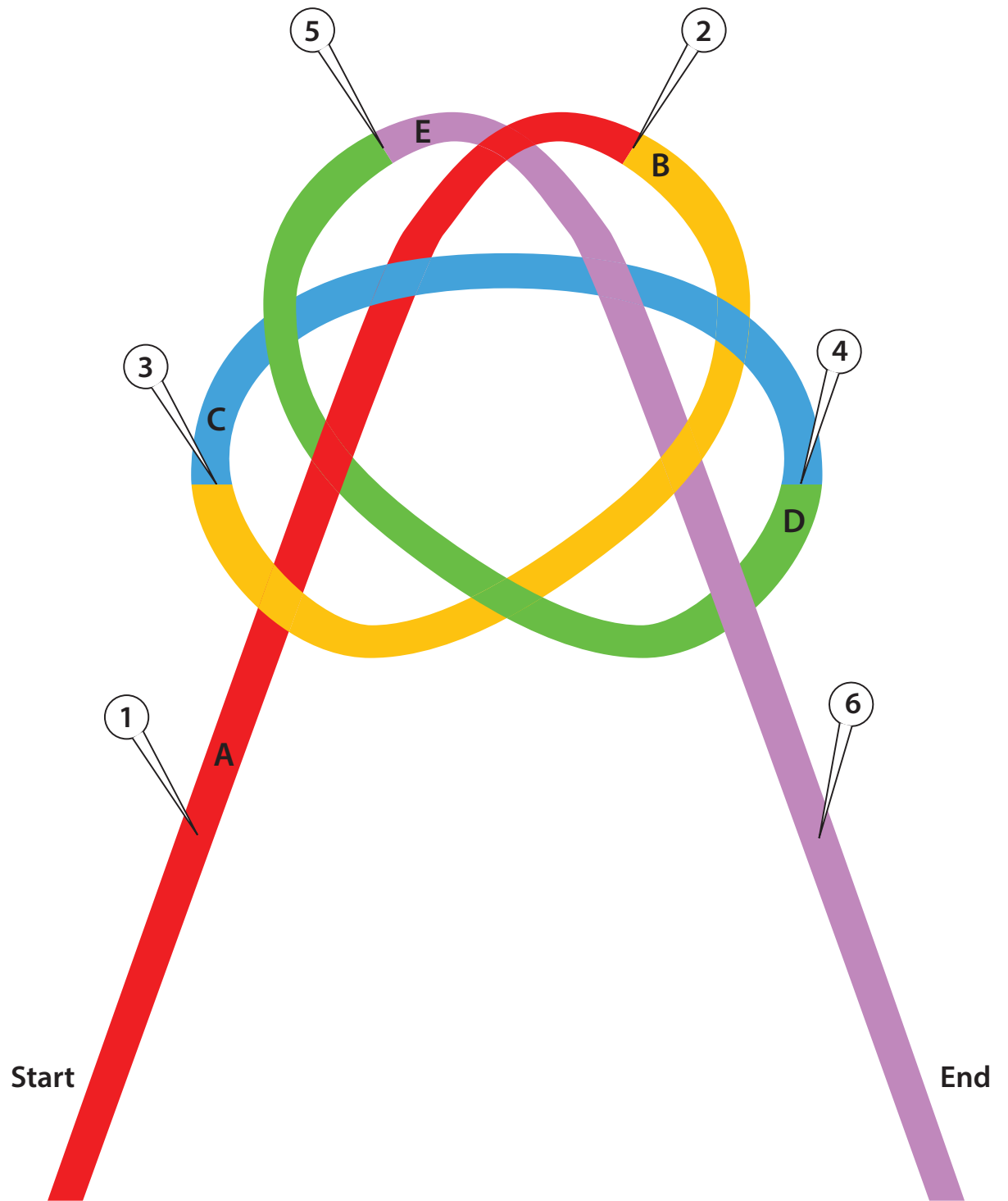
B. 2 to 3 (over A)

C. 3 to 4 (over A, over B)

D. 4 to 5 (over B, under A, over C)

E. 5 to 6 (under A, over C, under B, over D)

Final Result



Double Coin Knot

Final Result

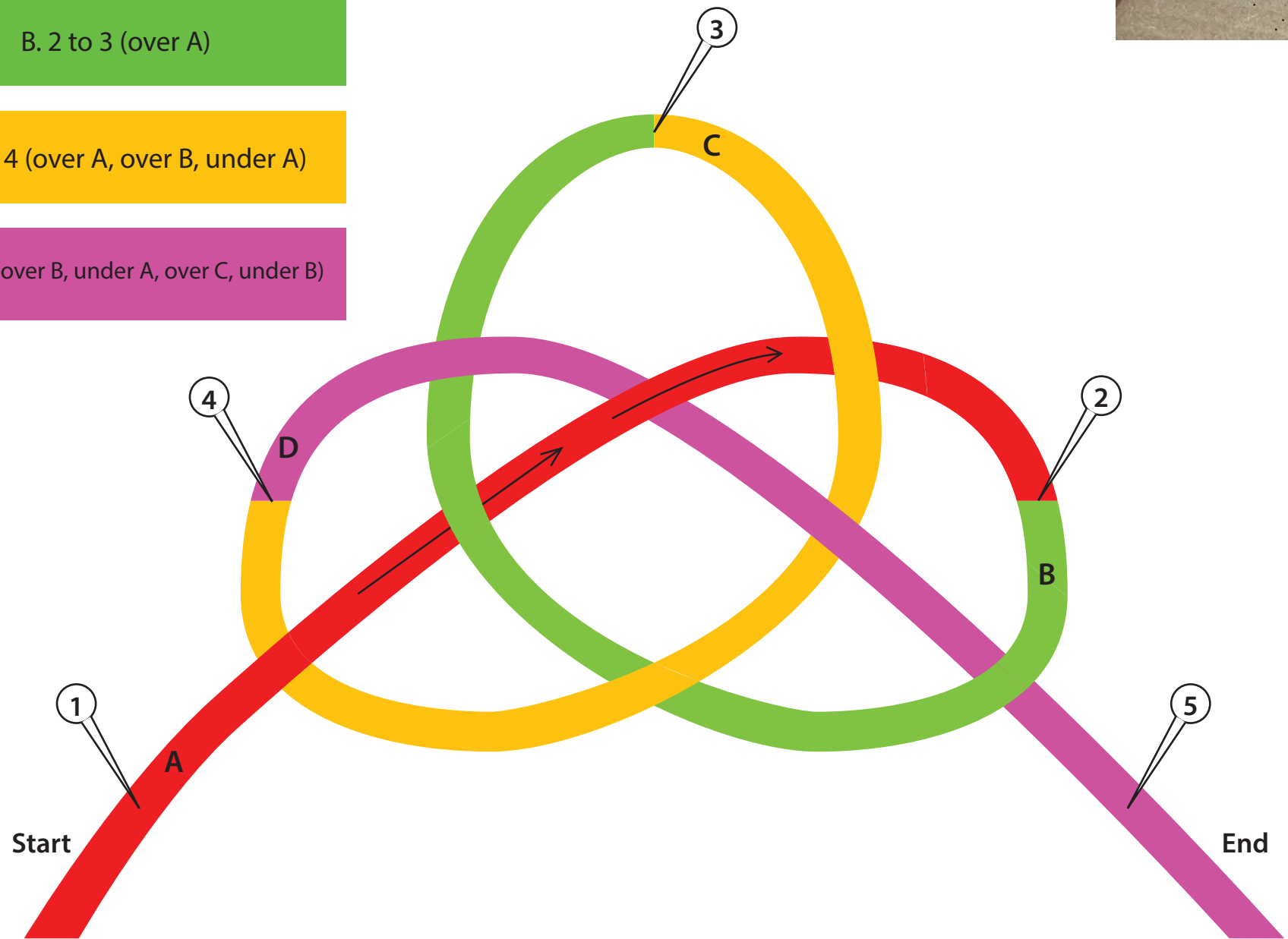


A. 1 to 2

B. 2 to 3 (over A)

C. 3 to 4 (over A, over B, under A)

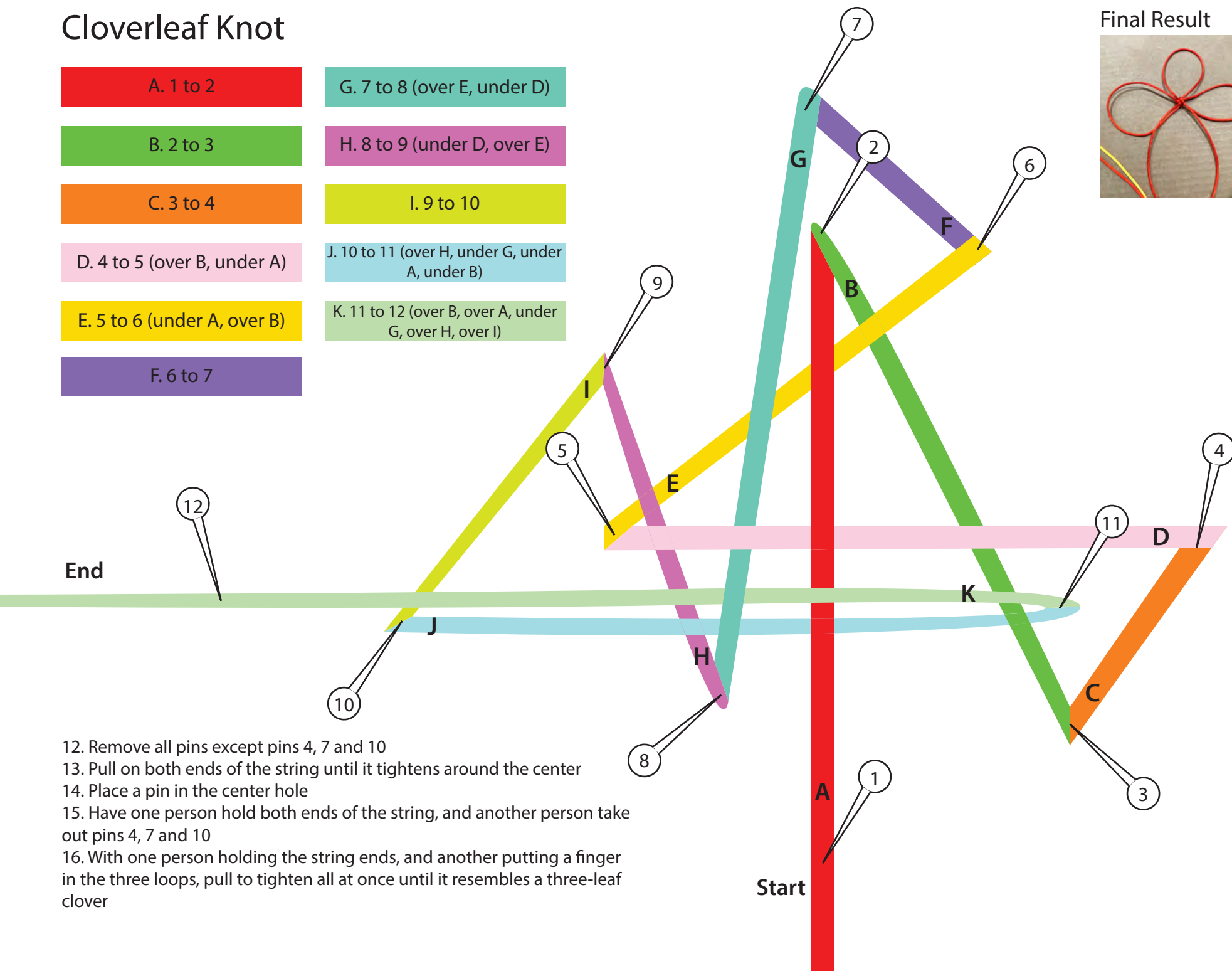
D. 4 to 5 (over B, under A, over C, under B)



Cloverleaf Knot

A. 1 to 2	G. 7 to 8 (over E, under D)
B. 2 to 3	H. 8 to 9 (under D, over E)
C. 3 to 4	I. 9 to 10
D. 4 to 5 (over B, under A)	J. 10 to 11 (over H, under G, under A, under B)
E. 5 to 6 (under A, over B)	K. 11 to 12 (over B, over A, under G, over H, over I)
F. 6 to 7	

Final Result



12. Remove all pins except pins 4, 7 and 10
13. Pull on both ends of the string until it tightens around the center
14. Place a pin in the center hole
15. Have one person hold both ends of the string, and another person take out pins 4, 7 and 10
16. With one person holding the string ends, and another putting a finger in the three loops, pull to tighten all at once until it resembles a three-leaf clover