

Hammocks, for your information.

A hammock saying: “If you don't know the knot, you're going to know the floor.”

In English, the word "hammock" came by way of Spanish conquistadors, who derived the word hommoca from the Caribs, who wove fibers of the hammok tree. The ferocious Caribs learned the craft from a people they had conquered, the inventive, but more peaceable, Arawak tribe whose own word hammock – *ini* – translates as: "bed-threads."

About Hammock Production in Ceará, Brazil.

The hammock industry has been a tradition in Ceará, a state in northeastern Brazil, for about 100 years and is characterized as being a predominantly familial production. The producers use several strategies to help limit the production costs, like hiring relatives and trading hammocks for new thread when they cannot sell their current stock. Ceará is valued for its production of high quality hammocks.

The primary product of the region is the standard cotton weave hammock, but there is also production of fine cloth hammocks, carpets, purses and pillows. The primary material used in hammock production is cotton thread that is bought from Europe, USA and various parts of Brazil. Most of the companies producing hammocks in the rural Ceará are cottage industries producing for local consumption, although there is a large production for export in the capital city, Fortaleza.

Hammocks produced in the cottage industries are made in the producers own home, and the textile looms are often manually operated and non-electric. More modern factories use electric looms which require manpower only to monitor the machines. Hammock workers generally work for minimum wage, up to double the minimum wage. There is a period of less production during the first three months of every year.