

Self Guided Activity – Journey Sticks

Learning Objective

Pupils will make their own 'map' of their journey by collecting objects and connecting them together to represent the order of events and then sharing journey sticks with each other

What you will need

Enough sticks the right size for a child's hand, approx 30cm in length

60 to 80 elastic bands or sections of coloured wool approx 15cm in length to fix found objects to the sticks

Time needed

45 minutes to 1 hour.

Activity

- Divide the class into small groups or pairs. Your challenge is to go on your own journey and make a journey stick, talk about where you will go and what you might find or experience
- Here are some ideas to get you started - think about how others can guess where you have been, for example, if you passed an old oak tree, you might want to collect a leaf or an acorn from the ground.
- If you saw a robin, you might tie some red wool on your stick. How could you show it was sunny when you started your journey?
- Now start your journey - look very carefully as you travel. Remember to start at one end of the stick and work across to the other end.
- Sharing your ideas, in groups, pupils use their Journey Sticks to retell events to each other.
- If there is time, discuss the use of maps to show routes and how the journey stick can act instead of a map,

Where

Following a trail on the reserve/site

Time of year

All year round

Pre-visit activity

Introduce the idea of map making to record a journey to the children. A journey stick is used to retell the story of a journey, along the way, bits and pieces tied to the stick represent events, feelings and milestones.

Post-visit activity

When the journey is over use the bits and pieces tied to the stick to recall what happened by making a collage or poster. Pupils can make a simple map of their journey back at school