

# TAKING THE CURRICULUM OUTSIDE



# JOURNEY STICKS

## Lesson plan

Decorate a stick to illustrate a journey looking at seasonal variations – autumn collections – seeds, nuts, fruit, coloured leaves etc. This activity can take place anywhere but the route should be checked and risk assessed prior to running the activity with children. Be particularly aware of dog faeces, litter, sharps, etc. Choose your route and pick up a stick and inspiration along the way.



## Aims

- » To decorate a stick which depicts a journey
- » To discuss environments, animals, habitats, seasons and stories
- » To use creativity, imagination and communication skills

**This activity will take approximately 35 mins but will take more if using a longer walking route**

## Introduction (Approx 10 mins)

- » How good is your memory? What if you had a visual prompt to help you remember the places you have passed along the way?

- » Tell the group how Native Americans used to decorate a stick as reminder of the places they had passed on their route and to tell others about their journey
- » Show the group an example of a decorated stick and recite the journey this stick tells. Explain that their task is to make a stick

## Collecting and decorating (Approx 15 mins)

- » As well as collecting a stick to decorate, some of the following items could be used:



- Leaves
- Feathers
- Sheep's wool
- Bird's feathers
- Pine cones or seeds
- Grasses or blossom



- » Give instructions on how long and thick the stick must be i.e. no longer than from palm to elbow and no thicker than your wrist. This makes the stick size appropriate for children.

**Bind the materials onto the stick by winding wool around and tying knots. If the learners are young, adult help may be required.**

- » Demonstrate how to tie the wool onto the stick then wind it continuously around the stick in the direction you want to decorate
- » Cut lengths of wool and put out along the trail - colour co-ordinate for different parts of the route e.g. blue near water, orange for autumnal, deciduous woods.
- » Collect items to decorate the stick along the way looking at seasonal variations e.g. autumn- nuts and seeds; spring colours - bright green and yellow; summer flowers

## Recalling journeys (10 mins+)

- » At the end of the journey, take a look at each other's sticks- they will all be unique.
- » Dependant on the age group, children could be asked to describe their route to a partner or to the class using items on their sticks as a reminder.
- » Ask if they enjoyed the activity. Is this a good way to remember and explain a journey?
- » Discuss how people's memory of a journey can differ - a journey stick is personal to them

# CURRICULUM LINKS

## Science

- » Asking simple questions and recognising that they can be answered in different ways
- » Seasonal variation
- » Identifying, classifying and looking at similarities and differences
- » Using their observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions
- » Recognise that there are hazards in natural materials. Encourage children to assess risks and take action to reduce risks to themselves and others.

## Geography

- » Map making- birds eye view, linear maps, gradient and route
- » Introducing geography vocabulary - route, location etc.

## Literacy

- » Story telling - creative writing and stimulating imagination
- » Communication - listening to and following instructions
- » Developing gross and fine motor skills - hand to eye co-ordination and dexterity

## PHSE

- » Asking simple questions and recognising that they can be answered in different ways

- » Listening to and following instructions
- » Aware of hazards and risks - responsible for own safety and well being

## Maths

- » Shape sorting, comparisons and simple measurements
- » Questioning and problem solving

## Art and Design & Technology

- » Using all the senses, developing creative notions, linking in with problem solving as they adapt to the environment around them.

# EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

## Geography

- » Using paper and pencils, ask children to complete a linear map using their sticks as a reference
- » Extend map making to include geography vocabulary and skills i.e. key, location, place, tile, symbols etc.

## Literacy

- » Encourage children to tell a story about their journey. Children can start adding mythical creatures and becoming more imaginative and creative.

**Resource created with NatureEd for  
City of Trees**

AS PART OF THE CITY OF TREES MOVEMENT,  
RED ROSE FOREST ARE GIVING AWAY FREE  
KITS THAT ALLOW YOU TO GROW YOUR  
OWN TREES FROM SEED!

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT LUCY HOLLAND:  
[LUCY@REDROSEFOREST.CO.UK](mailto:LUCY@REDROSEFOREST.CO.UK) | 0161 872 1660

