



Activity 2 Journey Stick Stories

A simple activity that creates a “journey stick” of items found outdoors. This can be used to record the variety of things found in an area and creates a resource to review the experience through story telling and discussion.

| Curriculum area(s) | Resources needed | Preparatory activity |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Literacy and English Listening and talking.</p> <p>Science Planet Earth – biodiversity and interdependence.</p> | <p>Outdoor area Preferably in a natural setting.</p> <p>Dead sticks A selection, one per child.</p> <p>Biodegradable twine or wool Or wide masking tape.</p> | <p>Explore resources from the Scottish Storytelling Centre See John Hamilton’s activities.</p> <p>– Environmental story games http://www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk/education/SRresources/ environstorygame.pdf</p> <p>– Nature story walk http://www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk/education/SRresources/ naturestorywalk.pdf</p> |

Main activity description

Journey sticks

These are similar to the story sticks made by Native American Indians. Ask the children to find a fallen dead stick if you have a suitable supply from a wooded area outdoors. If not, collect a selection beforehand. Tie a long piece of twine/wool to the base of each stick. Or, simply make each child a masking tape ‘armband’, sticky side out. Set off on a ‘journey’ around your outdoor area.

Collect objects

Ask the children to collect a selection of objects that must all be different – a fallen leaf, piece of moss, a feather for example. These objects are wound onto their stick with the twine or stuck on their armband. Finally, gather together to review.



Use completed sticks/armbands to:

- discuss the variety of things found and how they might support life;
- tell an imaginative story, or poetry, either individually or collectively;
- indicate places outdoors that were special;
- remind the participant of the route taken; and
- take home to share with parents and carers.

Extension activities

Developing imaginative writing using natural inspiration

See literacy resources for teaching in **RSPB Teaching resources** under ‘Our Work’ section www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork

Explore books about Native American Indians

Discover how they used the natural world for story telling.

Sources & further inspiration

Earthwalks from www.eartheducation.org.uk

FEI Learning Resources from www.foresteducation.org

