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**Outdoor &
Woodland
Learning**
SCOTLAND



My woodland journey



My woodland journey

Activity

Journey sticks are similar to story sticks made by Native Americans. While walking through the forest, the children pick up natural materials to tie onto their stick. This "journey stick" can then serve as a "map".

Look at a standard map of the woodland or area - the usual method to find our way around, or share with others where we have been. However, the wood can tell its own story with the items it produces.

Ask each child to find a fallen stick that appeals to them. Tie a long piece of twine to the base of each stick and as they walk

around the wood, ask them to collect objects that have meaning to them – a leaf, piece of moss, a feather for example. These objects are then tied onto their stick with the twine.

Use the finished sticks to discuss the variety of things found and how they link to the life of the wood. Each child can use their stick to share their personal journey with others. It can remind them of locations within the wood and they can lead a friend back to where a particular object was found.

Use the journey stick to navigate the route back to the start, looking at the items in reverse and remembering where each was found.



Before you go:

Think about maps and journeys - what do they mean to us? Look at different kinds of maps. Research the Native Americans ways of recording journeys.

What do you need?

A supply of sticks or a woodland with enough dead sticks for each child. Biodegradable twine or wool. Scissors or a knife to cut the twine.

Follow-up

The children can use the journey stick to develop an imaginative story, or poetry. Develop mapping skills by drawing the items, on a map of the wood, roughly in the places that they have found them. Take the journey stick home to share with parents and carers.