



Nature Play: Journey Sticks

Journey sticks have a long history. Aboriginal peoples of Australia and Native Americans used the sticks to tell stories about where they'd been and what they'd seen. The Aborigines collected things as they went and attached them to the stick in chronological order, they used the decorated sticks as a map and to tell stories about where they had been.

Invite everyone to share their stories and talk about what they found on their walk.

You will need:

A stick or piece of cardboard (a foot or so is good for a short journey, longer than a foot for a long journey), objects that you find on your walk (leaves, feathers, flowers, seeds, etc. -- things that are meaningful to you as you walk), colored yarn to connect the objects to the stick or tape to attach things to cardboard. Take a guidebook or other resource to help identify the things you find on the walk. If adding objects later, bring a paper bag or other container for your collection.

What to do:

Decide if you want to add your objects as you go or add them later.

1. Take a walk through your neighborhood.
2. As you go, look for things on the ground (fallen leaves, seed pods, twigs, stones, whatever catches your eye).
3. Attach objects to your journey stick. If you are using string, place the object close to the stick and then wrap colored string or yarn around both the object and the stick. At the end, tie it off so that the string stays in place. Or use double sided tape, tape loop, or colorful duct tape to attach objects to cardboard.
4. Continue your walk and collect the next object you want to add.

When you've finished your walk, share the story of it with someone else. Where did you go? What did you see?

Resources:

<https://growingfamily.co.uk/craft/nature-craft-journey-stick/>

<https://www.thewildnetwork.com/wild-time-ideas/make-a-journey-stick>

<http://runwildmychild.com/journey-sticks/>

https://nationalparks.uk/students/teachersarea/teaching-resources/act_bb_journeysticks/activity_guide_journey_sticks.pdf

https://www.ehow.com/how_5449787_decorate-indian-walking-sticks.html



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