



Nature Play: Nature Maze

A maze can be done almost anywhere using almost any materials and at almost any scale.

Once children have mastered simple mazes, invite them to think about how to increase the challenge. Can they solve three-dimensional mazes that they have to walk or crawl through? Mazes inside a box, or some other condition where they can't see where they are going? Mazes where they must collect things as they go?

Directions:

1. Gather chalk, sticks, rock, leaves, garden hoses, or other materials to make the maze or labyrinth.
2. Start small. Lay out a couple paths for a toy car (or similar) to travel.
3. Expand the maze or change the scale so that a person can walk through it.
4. Expand the maze again to make it three dimensional
5. Can everyone get through the maze? How can you change it to make it more of a challenge?

Explore the difference between a maze and a labyrinth:

<https://www.usi.edu/media/4024497/Mazes-vs-Labyrinths2.pdf>

Explore some of these websites for more maze ideas for outside and in:

<http://www.pinkstripeysocks.com/2017/02/how-to-create-rock-maze-with-kids.html>

<https://mothenatured.com/nature-play/build-a-maze-using-sticks/>

<https://www.theottoolbox.com/2014/01/snow-maze-outdoor-kids-activity.html>

<https://handsonaswegrow.com/preschooler-activity-a-big-maze/>

https://www.123homeschool4me.com/stem-12-maze-activities-for-kids_69/

<https://craftivitydesigns.com/how-to-make-a-giant-floor-maze-for-kids/>

Educational Theory

Problem solving is an important part of living in the world. And a fundamental component of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) education. By designing and constructing a maze, children learn to make predictions, learn about cause and effect, and prove to themselves that problems are manageable. They can learn to enjoy the process of problem-solving and recognize that they can solve complex problems with the same tools they used to solve simpler ones.



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Examples from the web

