



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

**FEI Learning Resources** from [www.foresteducation.org](http://www.foresteducation.org)

