



Journey Stick

The Task

Take the class on a walkabout, each pupil or pair is equipped with a short stick and some string, pre-cut into short lengths if required. The task is to collect interesting (and safe) items found along a chosen route. The items, say a leaf or moss is collected and tied onto the stick in an order to help the pupils remember the journey they have been on.



How?

- Pre explore a suitable path or field, taking account of any access issues that may occur. I used the edge of the local park.
- A Journey stick is an ancient version of our modern maps. It was used to help people remember how to get back or to a place. For instance, once you arrive at the mossy area you have to turn in a specific direction.
- Once equipped with sticks and string, space the pupils out giving clear instructions where they can and can't go.
- Once back in class you could use the sticks to help the pupils to draw their first 2D map, this class could be used as a pre-cursor for grid references.

Considerations

Discuss;

- What's safe and not safe to pick up, suitable clothing for the activity and where you can and can't go.



What will you need?

Suitable ground.
Natural items, Appropriate outdoor clothing.
String ,and scissors.



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Organisation & Layout

- Use the short film to help demonstrate before heading outside.
- Identify a safe walking area.
- This can be a fun preparation class for introducing mapping and grid references.

Learning Objectives

- Target Curriculum level 1, 2
- Nature
- Problem solving
- Memory
- Numeracy
- Literacy
- Social Studies

Safety Information

- Emphasise what is acceptable to pick up, highlight any dangers such as litter that could be encountered.
- Keep everyone in sight at all times.
- Consider specific rules that may be helpful depending on your pupils needs.
- Perhaps demonstrate the chosen route with the pupils beforehand to avoid any confusion.

Review & Assessment

- A working picture, poem, rap, drawing that describes the route in detail.
- Compare the maps, are they all the same? Explore any differences.
- Identify modern maps such as an underground or bus route.
- Introduce 2D maps and grid references.



Additional Links & Support

[Blairvadach Journey Stick – YouTube](#)