

RHS GARDEN ROSEMOOR

Self Guided Activity Ideas for Schools

Key Stage 1

JOURNEY STICKS

How long will it take?

30 minutes

What do we need to bring?

Sticks (approx 30cm long), rubber bands (4-5 per stick + spares), Garden Map.

How do we do it?

Discuss how we find our way - Maps, compass, Sat-Nav. How would they manage without these? Is their memory good enough to remember a route? Would a visual reminder help you remember places?

Explain to the children that Native Americans used 'Journey Sticks' as maps to remind them of routes and tell others of their journey.

The task is to make a journey stick of a route through the garden. The journey will take in 4 or 5 different areas of the garden. In each area the children can take 1 or 2 things that remind them of the area and fit them under the elastic band, i.e. 1 Band=1 Habitat.

Please pick only things on the floor which are NOT growing.

At the end on the journey you should be able to recall from your 'Journey Stick' which route you have taken around the garden.



Can you guess the order other groups went just by looking at their sticks?

Are the plants different in each area of the garden?

Where can we do it?

Suggested route for your 'journey':



When can we do it?

All year round.

Extensions & follow up ideas

- Coloured wool instead of rubber bands to attach items & represent areas / feelings. Alternatively sticks can have bands of double sided sticky tape to stick items on.
- Discuss; Is it a good way to remember and explain a journey? How accurate is it? Sticks open to interpretation so they can be very personal. Can the journey sticks develop into a story / poem?
- To make unconscious record of a journey attach masking tape around their ankles with sticky side facing out. Go for a walk and examine what has been collected.