

# Make a map-stick

## Introduction

In cultures that did not have a tradition of writing down their history, maps or records, people recorded important things in other ways. For example a journey could be recorded as a story, a song, a poem or in art. A walk such as the woodland walk at Leighton Hall could be remembered by making a map-stick. This is simply a stick with an example of various things tied on, or coloured, in such a way as to record the important events, or things to look out for, along the route. (see diagram) The idea is that you can use the map stick to help you tell the story of your journey and that someone else should be able to travel along the same route and spot the same things or find the same places as you did.

## How to do it

You will be sorted into groups of 5 or 6. Your guide will supply your group with a suitable stick and a tray with some coloured wool in it – cut into lengths. As you go around the woodland walk you should look out for things which you think are important or interesting and which will show to others the route you took. Then you could choose a suitably coloured piece of wool and find something small that goes with that place and tie it on. You should start at the end away from you and tie on the things in the order that you find them, finishing near the handle end.

## Afterwards

You will need to remember what each item and colour represents - as at the end of the walk you should sit in a circle with the rest of your class and the groups should be able to use their sticks to tell the 'story' of their journey.

## **Safety First !**

- Remember that you should not use the sticks as weapons and that waving them around could catch people in the face.
- Remember that you should keep to the path
- Remember do not climb the fence to go into the pond !
- ***There are some leaves and berries that could make you sick – you should not touch these, (They are mostly around post B) your Guide or teacher will tell you which ones to avoid.***

## Help ?

Have a look at the example of a map stick in the picture – or perhaps one that your guide has - to give you some ideas on how to get started.

An example of a map-stick for the first part of the woodland walk at Leighton Hall

