



High Weald Hero Activity Card

Natural Mapping



Equipment: Natural materials found on woodland floor.

Location: A woodland clearing, room enough for the children to work on the ground.

Audience: KS 1 & 2

Time: 30 minutes

An activity that uses woodland materials to enhance map skills

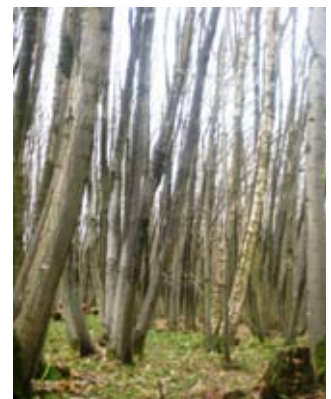
Activity Description: Using materials found on the woodland floor – sticks, leaves etc. ask children to create a map, on the ground, of the route travelled so far. Encourage creativity as they ‘draw’ roads crossed, buildings passed etc. For some children you could encourage them to use and develop a key e.g. oak leaf = building. The children should include as much detail as possible, which is a good way of seeing how observant the children have been on route!



As they map their journey, ask the children to consider direction. Can they work out which way is North and create an arrow on their map to show this?

For extension work, children could be given copies of a map, showing their route from this point – can they translate this information into a pictorial map on the ground?

High Weald Teaching Point: If you are in the woods, see if there are any signs of ‘coppicing’ - a traditional woodland management technique. Coppicing is when trees are cut periodically to ground level and are left to regrow from the cut stumps, known as stools, often producing multiple stems. The word coppice is derived from the French ‘couper’, meaning to cut. Coppicing trees allows more light to the woodland floor, as the trees are smaller or have been taken away. Increased light is very beneficial for plants. So cleverly, ground flora in ancient coppiced woodland, e.g. bluebells, flower before the leaves on the trees emerge in spring. In addition, seeds which have lain dormant - sometimes for many years - germinate in response to this additional light.



Check out the Learning Zone at www.highweald.org