

Adders are Amazing! Gwiberod Gwych!

6. MAGIC ADDER PENCILS

INTRODUCTION

This is a simple craft activity, ideally suited to younger children. It can be done during a classroom or group visit. The best way to start off is to introduce the group to adders and their habitats first. Then let them have a go at this really simple and effective activity which will help them learn more about how adders are marked, as well as help them to remember what sort of places they are likely to find them in. Giving the children something to keep helps sustain those positive adder feelings.

MATERIALS:

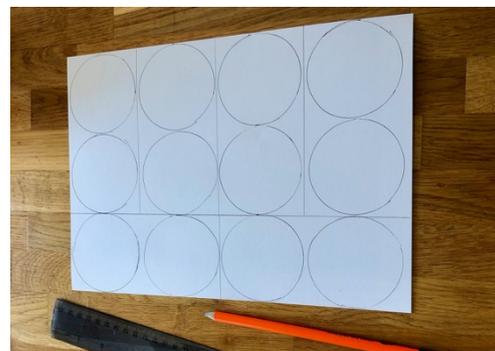
- Thick art paper (250gsm)
- Double-sided Sellotape or regular Sellotape, doubled up
- Pencils and washable felt tip pens (schools can provide)
- Children's safety scissors (schools can provide)
- Cheap pencils (one per child) to make into the magic pencil
- Photos of adders and their habitat

MAKE IT!

1 Each magic pencil requires two circles of the same size (approx. 5cm diameter). Pre-draw these, in pairs, using a circular guide, onto sheets of thick paper/thin card ready to take along



2 Cut out the pairs of circles so that you have two per rectangle of card, ready for the activity session



MAKE IT!

- 3** Put out pictures of adders as a guide. Ask the children to start by drawing a picture of an adder on one of the circles – they can make a male, female, baby or an entire adder family.



- 4** Next, ask the children to think about the adders' habitat and ask them to draw it on the other circle e.g. sand dunes, heathland, gorse, bracken, trees, hedgerow. Put out pictures of adder habitat as a guide.



- 5** Once they have finished drawing, ask the children to carefully cut out the circles. Help them and ask staff helpers to assist if necessary.



- 6** Lay one picture face down and apply double sided Sellotape to the back. Peel the backing off the tape. Press the pencil onto it.



- 7** Place the other drawing on top, face up. Squeeze it down so that the tape sticks it to the paper on the other side of the pencil.



- 8** Ask the child to 'twizzle' the pencil quickly between their hands and watch what happens to the picture – it appears the adder is in the habitat!

