4. ADDER WANDS

INTRODUCTION

This is a great craft activity for festivals and community events. Children love making something they can run around with – and they love these 'Harry Potter' wands. They are also a great way to catch the attention of passers-by to come and introduce to our native reptiles. We found that even the adults love making a decorated stick – it really is quite therapeutic!

MATERIALS:

- A selection of fine-line permanent marker pens (Sharpies)
- Bleached (but not brittle) driftwood sticks or from non-coastal areas, straight sticks cut from a non-toxic tree, such as hazel, sycamore, willow, alder silver birch or lime
- If using cut sticks, a traditional sideways vegetable peeler and whittling knife (optional) or sand paper
- Spools of inexpensive ribbon
- Pictures of adders to show participants

MAKE IT!

1. If using driftwood, check for sharp edges and splits before starting. If using cut sticks, prepare them by peeling the bark off and leaving to dry before use.

2. Use a whittling knife to tidy up and decorate the stick (we use an Opinel no. 6). If done with a Forest School, knife safety is taught to the children, otherwise prepare the sticks yourself, ahead of the day.
**MAKE IT!**

3. Show the participants pictures of adders and talk about them. Then ask each person to choose a stick and think of an adder pattern or picture to decorate it.

4. Using fine-line marker pens, the participants can decorate their chosen stick to give it an adder design. Precious clothes need to be protected!

5. Once the drawing is finished, ribbons can be tied to the end of the stick to decorate it. We suggest 1 m lengths of ribbon, in bundles of three.

6. Set the children free to run around in an open space! Remind them not to hurt each other with their wands ☺️

7. Adults really enjoy this activity too! How creative can you get?!