

R Research Activity 2: Trail Markers – How to Read Them



“Chelsea thought of blazing a tree trunk as they walked, but she feared that might scar the tree. Not nice to the tree, Chelsea smiled to herself. Instead, she broke the end of an occasional limb where it hung near the path, then showed Kiki and Maeve how to stack up the few rocks they could find to make their own cairn. Anyone seeing the tiny rock formation would know it wasn’t natural. Or, if Chelsea was wrong and they were going in the wrong direction again, they could backtrack with no effort.”
~Lake Rescue p.201

Materials: Hiking manuals, internet, library, paper or poster board for trail markers (optional), pencils or markers

Hikers and hunters have been marking trails for years. There are standard trail markers on established hiking trails. Use a scout manual to find out how those trail markers work. Try making paper models of trail markers and mark a trail in your yard. See if a friend can follow your trail markers.

On treeless expanses of land in Alaska, the native peoples would mark directions for latecomers in a hunting party by building rock cairns in the shape of a person (Anookshook) and show the direction they went by indicating that direction with a dot on the right or left arm. These “Anookshooks” are used today in Alaska as lawn decorations.

How do hikers and hunters mark their trails?

What would you do if you were lost in the woods?
