

# History Detectives on a Nature Walk

Let's become History Detectives today! Our mission is to explore the outdoors and find clues about how people lived a long, long time ago, before there were stores like we have now.

## Preparation (Before the Walk - 10 mins)

Ask your student:

- "Imagine living long ago. Where would you get food?"
- "What would you use to build a house?"
- "What if you needed a tool? Where would you find something to make it?"

Explain that people used things they found in nature – plants, rocks, wood, water – for almost everything! If you have pictures, show examples of simple shelters, tools made from rocks or wood, or baskets made from plants.

Introduce the Nature Journal: "This is our detective notebook! We'll draw or write about the clues we find outside."

## The Investigation (Nature Walk - 30-45 mins)

Head outside! Encourage your student to look closely at everything around them.

### Detective Tasks:

1. **Find Interesting Rocks:** Pick up a few different kinds (smooth, rough, sparkly). Ask: "How could someone long ago use a rock like this?" (*Ideas: hitting things like a hammer, grinding seeds, starting fires (flint), building walls*). Ask: "How do we use rocks today?" (*Buildings, roads, jewelry*). Draw a favorite rock in the journal.
2. **Examine Sticks and Wood:** Look at fallen branches or twigs. Ask: "What could this wood be used for back then?" (*Ideas: building shelters, making fire, creating tools or spear handles, fences*). Ask: "What do we use wood for today?" (*Furniture, houses, paper, heat*). Draw a stick or piece of wood.
3. **Observe Leaves and Plants:** Look at different leaf shapes (point out safe plants only!). Ask: "How might plants and leaves have helped people?" (*Ideas: food (berries, roots - caution needed!), medicine, weaving materials for baskets or cloth, bedding*). Ask: "How do we use plants today?" (*Food, medicine, clothes (cotton), decoration, oxygen!*). Draw an interesting leaf.
4. **Look for Water (if possible):** If near a stream or pond, ask: "Why was water so important for people long ago?" (*Drinking, cooking, washing, travel (boats), attracting animals to hunt*). Ask: "How do we get water easily today?" (*Taps, pipes*).

Use the magnifying glass for close-up views! Encourage recording findings in the journal throughout the walk.

## Case Review (After the Walk - 10-15 mins)

Sit down together and look through the nature journal.

- Ask: "What was the most interesting clue you found today?"

- "Tell me about one item you found and what people long ago might have used it for."
- "How is the way we get things like tools or shelter different today compared to long ago?" (*Stores, factories, technology vs. directly from nature*).
- "Why is it still important to take care of nature, even though we have stores?"

## **Assessment**

Review the student's journal entries for observations and ideas. Listen to their answers during the 'Case Review' discussion to gauge understanding of historical resource use and past/present comparison.