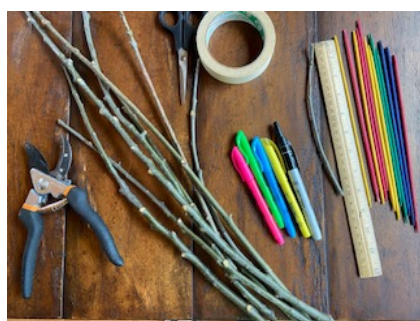


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Mission: Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

Pick-up Sticks

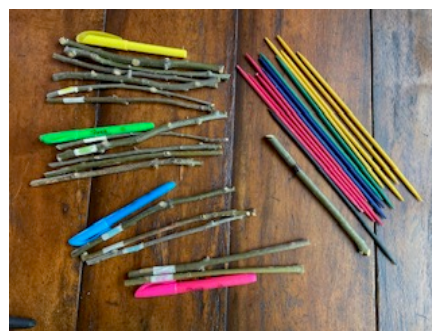
Pick-up sticks or pick-a-stick is a game of physical and mental skill in which a bundle of "sticks" about 8" or 9" long are dropped as a loose bunch onto the floor or a table top, jumbling into a random pile. Each player in turn tries to remove a stick from the pile without disturbing any of the others. The game is known by several names including jackstraws (or jack straws), spellicans, and spillikins. Pick-up sticks originated in China where the sticks were carved out of ivory and were elaborately decorated. The sticks may be made of almost any material, such as ivory, bone, wood, bamboo, straw, reed, rush, yarrow, or plastic. To make your set of pick-up sticks, have an adult help you use pruners to cut 30 sticks (I cut 20 to start with) that are about the same thin diameter and about 8 inches long. You can use bamboo BBQ skewers, if you have them. You will need markers to color one with a black stripe (10 points), three with red stripes (5 points), five with blue (3 points), nine with green (2 points) and twelve with yellow (1 point). I used tape with marker, because my colors didn't show up well on the bark. Play the game alone or with any number of people. Use a table or the floor as the playing surface. One person holds the sticks (all but the black) upright in a bunch in one hand on or just above the floor or table. Release the sticks and let them fall. Try to remove the sticks one by one without moving any other stick in the pile. You can use the black stick to help you remove other sticks. Continue removing sticks until you move another stick by mistake. If you move a stick accidentally, when you are removing a stick and are playing with others, it is the person's turn who is on your left. When all the sticks have been picked up, count the value of your sticks. The person with the most points wins.



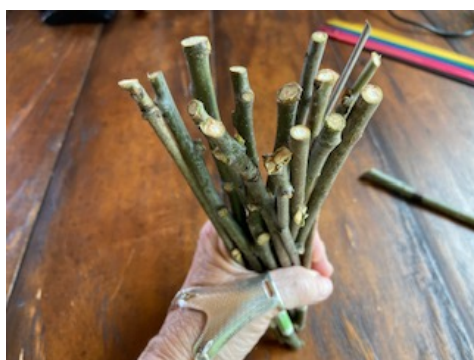
1 Supplies



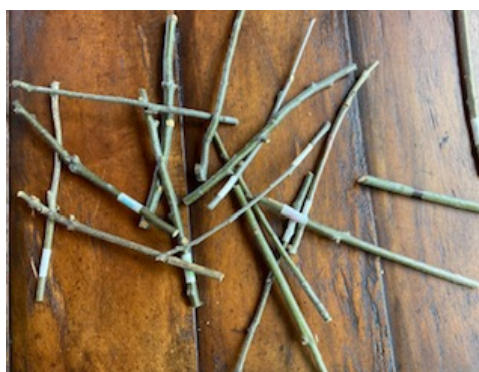
2. Cut thin twigs to 8" or 9"



3 Mark colors for various points



4 Hold sticks upright & release



5 Pick up one stick at a time without moving others