Story Stones

Try telling a story with stones!

Activity Summary:

Think back to the stone in the story A Stone Sat Still by Brendan Wenzel. The stone saw many things in its life, including birds, snails, and raccoons! The stone was a home to many critters, a resting place, and even a kitchen. People have told stories using nature for thousands of years, all around the world. Now it’s time to make your own stories! Follow these steps to create your own story stones.

Materials Needed:

- 2 small stones, about the size of your fist
- Paint and paintbrushes, chalk, or markers
- Bag or bowl, for game (optional)

Story Stones Activity Steps:

1. Go out and find 2 small stones. Only taking a few stones helps the earth. It is important to not take too much from nature, and be mindful of what you’re taking. Try and find the smoothest stones you can, and it helps if they are flat. Good places to look for stones are by rivers, ponds, or on pathways.
2. Wash your stones and make sure they are clean of any dirt. Leave them to dry.
3. While your stones are drying, brainstorm some stories about the stone’s lives. What have these stones seen? Where have they been? Has anyone else picked them up? Think back to the book and remember, a stone has a very long life!
4. Once your stones are totally dry, paint a different picture on each one about what the stone has seen in its life, or where it has been. Maybe you paint a bird, a tree, or a river! Tip: If the stones are dark in color, try painting them white first to get your picture to show up better.
5. Let your paintings dry.
6. Using the pictures on your stones, tell the story of the stone’s life. You can also jumble the stones together and make up a totally new story by rearranging the stones in a different order.

**Extension Activity Story Stones game:**

You can play this game by yourself, or with as many people as you want.

1. Put the story stones in a bag or bowl and mix them up.
2. Pick someone to go first (if you’re playing alone, skip this step)
3. Without looking into the bag, the person takes each stone out one by one and lays them in a line.
4. The person makes up a story about the stones that came out of the bag and tells it to the group. Have fun!