

This activity contributes to the following badges:



Beaver Creative Activity Badge



Cub Our Skills Challenge Award

The activity could also help towards:



Beaver Book Reader Activity Badge



Cub Book Reader Activity Badge

Beavers | Cubs

Stitch a sock snake

National Lost Sock Day, 9 May Break out your sewing kit and put odd socks to good use

Time 90 minutes +

Equipment

- clean odd socks
- sharp scissors
- sewing needles
- cotton thread
- fabric glue (optional)
- red ribbon
- stuffing such as newspaper, unwanted bubble wrapping or wadding
- buttons x 2

Instructions

1 A couple of weeks before the meeting, ask your young people to collect as many odd socks as possible – it doesn't matter what colour they are or whether they have holes in the toes. At the meeting, put all the socks into a pile and, as a group, select as many socks as you can that are roughly the same width. Put the rejects to one side – you may be able to use them to make a second narrower or wider snake sock.

2 Ask the young people to cut the socks into four-inch sections, removing the toe and the heel. Longer socks will provide a second stretch of fabric between the heel and the elasticated cuff at the top. Recycle the offcuts or repurpose them into sweatbands or scrunchies.

3 Using a running stitch or a backstitch (find detailed instructions online), help your section stitch the ends of two sock pieces together around the openings, making sure they don't accidentally sew them shut. If using patterned socks, turn them inside out to sew them together. If your section struggles with sewing, use fabric glue instead.

4 Give individual young people small sections of sock snake to work on, then help them attach the sections together to form one length of snake. Decide which sock your group would like to act as the head, as the end of this will need sewing up. You can even add a forked tongue made of ribbon.

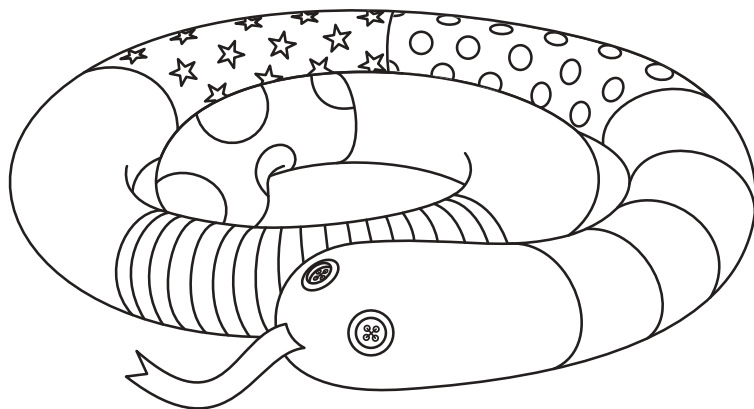
5 Once all the longer sections are sewn together and you have your full-length snake, work together to turn the snake

back so that any patterns are on the outside and the stitching is hidden within. Add buttons to the head to act as eyes.

6 Ask a young person to sew the end into a point. Now it's time for everyone to admire their handiwork and give the sock snake a name. Why not call it Kaa and use it as a chance to explore the history of Cubs and its connection to Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*?

Take it further

You could suggest to your section that they read *The Jungle Book* to find out who Kaa is. Encourage them to keep adding to their sock snake over the term to see how long it can grow! Can they get it as long as Medusa, the longest-ever snake living in captivity, according to Guinness World Records, who measures a whopping 7.67 metres?



Thought about peer leadership?

Encourage peer leaders to take responsibility for their Lodge or Six in this short and simple activity.