

## Whittle your own Hazel Knife

In a pinch at snack time in the woods? Need to peel some bark or just fancy a quick whittle to take your mind off things? Try making this simple knife with these instructions.



**STEP 1** To make this knife you will need a length of wood 20cm long and 2cm in diameter, a sharp knife and a pencil.



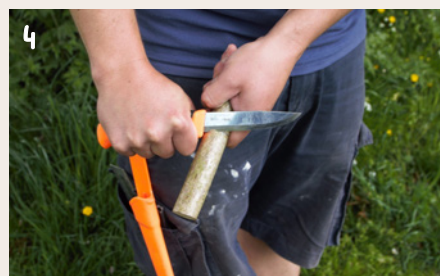
**STEP 2** Draw a line around the circumference of the wood around halfway along its length. Decide which half will be your blade and which will be your handle.



**STEP 3** Draw two parallel lines either side of the pith at the blade end. Make sure you can see them clearly.



**STEP 4** The push cut. Keep your elbows locked into your sides to focus all the force along the wood. Starting from the heel of the blade and slicing across the wood, push the blade away from you to make the cut.



**STEP 5** Carefully cut down the length of the blade to the parallel lines. Work at angles rather than trying to do the whole section in one go.



**STEP 6** Mark a line the length of the blade about 1/3 to half way across on both sides. This will be the cutting bevel.



**STEP 7** The thumb push cut. Bring your non-cutting hand up to the back of the knife blade and rest your thumb at the top of the handle. Using just your thumb to push the blade make a cut as far as your non cutting hand can push.



**STEP 8** Using the push and thumb push cuts make a bevel on the blade by gently cutting the wood so that it meets at a point. Use the thumb push cut to define the transition from the handle into the blade.



Add any decoration you like by rounding the end, thinning the handle or just get to using it spreading, cutting fruit or peeling bark: what else can you think of?



With thanks to Snapdragon's Forest School leader Tim Graham for sharing these activities.

Snapdragons Nurseries are based in Bath, Bristol and Wiltshire and have their own dedicated Forest School leader, Tim Graham. Find out more [here](#)

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