**Natural Equations**

Use natural materials to represent numbers for some simple outdoor algebra.

Equipment

* Flat tarmac space
* Chalk
* Natural materials
* Paper, pencil and clipboard

Activity

Can you use different natural materials to design some equations to answer?

1. Collect some natural materials (try to gather at least 5 different objects)
2. Create a key to show ‘how many’ each object represents  
   For example – stick = 5, leaf = 2, rock = 8
3. Create some equations using your objects. Write them using the chalk  
   For example – stick x leaf =
4. Work out the answers to your equations  
   For example – stick x leaf = 10

You can put more than one of the same object together. This means you need to multiply them together before moving onto the next step.  
For example – stick stick + rock = 33 (because stick x stick = 5 x 5 = 25)

Extension

Can you make some equations for a friend to answer?

Can you work out a friend’s key if you are given an answered equation?  
For example –  
stick x leaf = 20 (What does the stick represent? What does the leaf represent?)



