

Making a Dip Pen

Have you ever whittled, or seen someone whittling? Perhaps you're not even sure what whittling is?

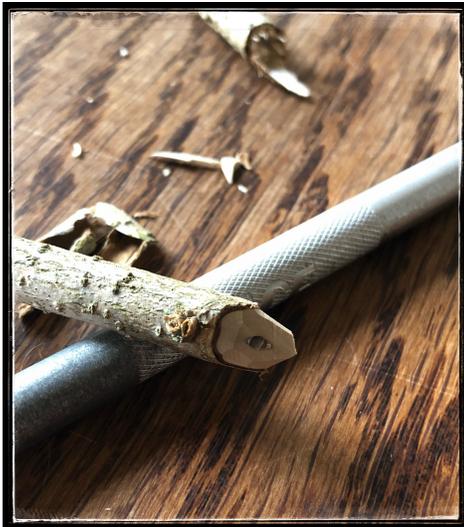
To whittle is to carve away something slowly and in small pieces. The whittling of sticks was a common pastime in the frontier days of Arkansas when all the chores were done and you found yourself with some time to spare. Nowadays "whittle away" can even imply that you're wasting bits of time and energy on useless things. Today, instead of whittling away your day on a video game, why not try your hand at whittling a stick into a dip pen!

Here's what you'll need:

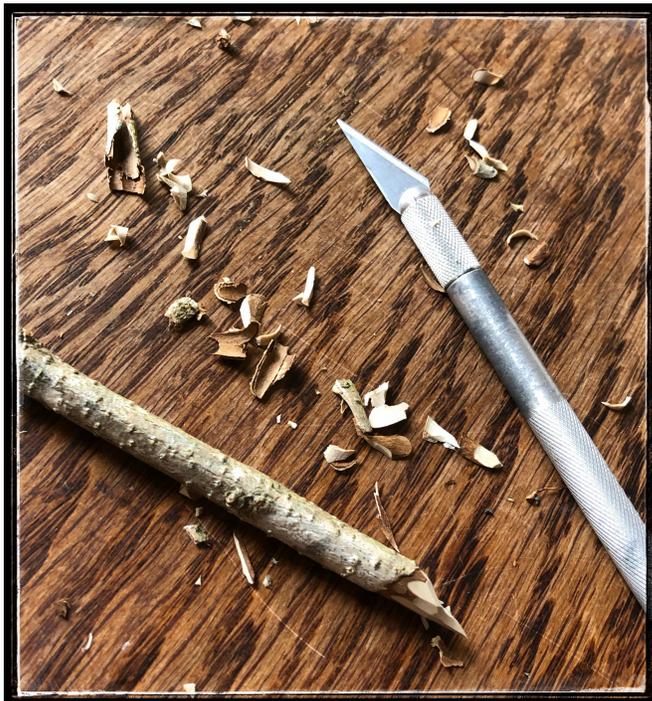
- *A stick, about the width and length of a number 2 pencil, preferably dry or dead*
- *A sharp tool for cutting or whittling*
- *And last but not least, a responsible adult who can supervise and assist you.*



Once you have gathered all your supplies, you, with the help of your responsible adult, can begin to whittle down the tip of your stick into a sharp point.



Just keep at it until it looks something like this...



*Here's my finished dip pen.
Now that's some might fine
whittling if I do say so
myself!*

*Next up, making some ink so
we can put these pens to use!*